



CARNIVAL FORCED TO RELOCATE

Report by Andrew Turton

ORGANISERS of Halesowen Carnival, which is being revived next month after 30 years, say the event will be a success despite being forced to change its venue by Dudley Council.

The carnival team were disappointed after being told they could not hold the event at its traditional venue Huntingtree Park because that has been deemed unsuitable, a decision that has cost them £1,000.

The park had hosted the event in the past, before it disappeared from the town's calendar three decades ago. But officials say pathways in the park are not strong enough to cope with heavy vehicles that will be bringing equipment on the site for the revived festivities.

Now the event has been moved to nearby Highfields Park but it's a move which has forced organisers to pay out an extra £1,000 to reprint banners, signs and leaflets for the event on Saturday, July 4.

Councillor Stuart Henley, who sits on the organising committee, said: "It has been disappointing because we have put a lot of work in. Hopefully everything will be fine. "We just wish we had known sooner but it is a lesson learned."

Dudley's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, whose brief includes overseeing large events in the borough, said the council had been working with the organisers of the Halesowen Carnival to ensure safety.

Robust

He explained that after the council had been told of the plans to have 'very large vehicles' enter Huntingtree Park they were forced to advise organisers that the pathways were not strong enough.

A range of events are planned for the revived carnival, which is being held to coincide with the Black Country Festival, including live music and stalls.

One of Halesowen and the Black Country's favourite comics, Tommy Mundon, who died last year, will be remembered at the carnival with his family invited as guests of honour.

The event is also restoring a carnival tradition by naming its own king and queen. A level students Shaun James and Grace Dunham, both aged 18 and from Halesowen, were crowned recently.

Lush oasis draws crowds to garden



Typically tropical — Halesowen gardener Peter Bridgens has created what looks like a part of a rainforest in his suburban garden

It's Peter's paradise

IT'S owner describes it as a cottage garden with a 'tropical twist'.

And walking through Peter Bridgens' Halesowen garden you would be forgiven for believing you were in a much warmer part of the world.

The unique spectacle boasts giant rhubarb-like South American plants alongside Michaelmas daisies and each year dozens turn up to have a look around as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

In recent months the garden has also come to have special significance for the man for who it is his pride and joy.

Peter, aged 65, said: "I have been very ill recently and, if I am completely honest, the garden has kept me sane."

"I decide to open it to the public because I like people to realise that there is this opportunity to grow things that they might never have thought of."

"Who knows, I might even inspire people."

"Of course the most important thing is that we get the money for charity."

"I have had relatives who have died having suffered with cancer and I might end up with Alzheimer's, so they are good causes."

Peter has been opening his gardens to the public for 20 years.

The retired transport manager added: "As a young lad my parents gave me an area of the garden, even then I took it seriously."

COMMUNITY

Takeover for old Sons of Rest base

A COMMUNITY group plans to take over the former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen next month.

Dudley Council has agreed to transfer the venue to members of Hasbury Community Association so that it can be opened up to local groups.

A campaign was launched two years ago to save the building, between Alexandra Road and Wall Well, amid fears it could be demolished to make way for housing.

Councillor Donella Russell, who launched the campaign, said the group was hoping to sign the lease this month.

HOUSING

Funding secured for more homes

A PROPERTY developer has bought a one-acre site in Halesowen and is planning to build nine homes ranging from two to four bedrooms.

Eden Properties, owned by brothers Darren and Andy Cutler and based near Redditch, has been building homes across the Midlands since 2000.

The property development business identified a site on Tenlands Road, Halesowen, and has obtained £600,000 in loans for the project.

HEALTH

£2m expansion plan to transform hospital

DETAILED plans for a £2 million transformation of Rowley Regis Hospital are being drawn up following a consultation with patients and staff.

The project will see the range of services available at the site off Moor Lane expanded so more people can be treated closer to home.

Full proposals will go before board members next month and if approved work is set to begin later this year and be completed by Easter next year, said chief executive Toby Lewis.

Options being discussed include bringing on site services for long-term care.

INSIDE

AN MBE FOR JORDANNE



PAGE 3



Councillor Stuart Henley

Young man has fixation with knives

A MAN 'fixated' with knives has escaped being locked up despite being caught in possession of one for the fourth time.

Theo Edmead, aged 20, was with three other youths in Halesowen town centre when approached by police officers on March 27, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

They found he was carrying a lock knife but he said he had been using it earlier in the day while working on his motorcycle and had simply forgotten that it was still in his pocket, said Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting.

Guilty

Edmead, of Narrow Lane, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to possession of a bladed article and was given eight months detention in a Young Offenders Institution suspended for a year, plus 100 hours of unpaid work and £340 costs.

Recorder Leo Pyle told him: "You have a fixation with knives."

"This is a serious offence even though you were not brandishing the knife."

"It only needs a moment of anger or a perceived insult for it to be produced."

MP asking France to honour vow

THE failure of France to honour its promise to award D-Day veterans its highest honour is to be raised with the country's embassy.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, will raise the case of Geoffrey Russon, who is almost 92 and fears he may not live long enough to receive his Legion d'Honneur award.

It is more than a year since the French government confirmed that that British veterans of the Normandy invasion would be awarded the France's highest honour, as long as they applied for it.

Mr Russon, who lives in Cradley Heath, applied shortly after the announcement was made and his application was processed by the Ministry of Defence in December. But is caught up in French bureaucracy.

His daughter-in-law Yvonne, aged 50, who lives in Stafford, has enlisted the help of her MP Jeremy Lefroy and Mr Morris has also taken up the case.

Mr Morris said: "I'm going to make direct representations to the French Embassy in London about his particular case."

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CONTENTS	
MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	8
DANIEL WAINWRIGHT	11
THE FAST TICKET	17
PROPERTY	25
MOTORING	34
SPORT	39 & 40
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Ineligible denied free hospital travel

ELDERLY people in Dudley in receipt of mobility allowance are being told they will no longer be given free transport to hospital.

Several patients have raised concerns since patient-care company NSL took over the running of the service from Ambulance. Some say they cannot book an ambulance to collect them from their homes anymore.

Bosses at NSL say there has been no change in criteria as patients in receipt of mobility allowance have never been entitled to free non-urgent transport to Russells Hall

Hospital. Access in Dudley, which champions the rights of disabled people, said NSL was enforcing criteria that had never been enforced before. The group estimated that there were thousands in Dudley receiving mobility allowance.

NSL now offers the transport service for those who have a medical need only.

Access in Dudley chairman Tina Boothroyd said: "If you get the mobility element of the disability allowance, if you tick yes, that doesn't qualify you for hospital transport.

This has never been a problem before and I know people who have travelled on hospital transport for 16 years and have never been asked."

The mobility allowance is paid to people who have difficulty walking, through physical disabilities or other conditions. Those in receipt of this funding are expected to use it to help them get to hospital appointments. But many find it difficult to use public transport or taxis.

Mrs Boothroyd said she had taken several calls from concerned people. "This is going to upset a lot of

people," she said. "People with disabilities who have regular hospital appointments use the transport because there is no other way to do it."

NSL spokeswoman Afrika Morris said: "In Dudley, the eligibility criteria states that a patient in receipt of mobility benefits is ineligible for transport. However, in some instances, a patient with severe mobility conditions may be eligible for transport. We will be working with the Clinical Commissioning Groups to address these."

Councillor is saying street has enough places to eat

NO more food outlets are needed in a busy Black Country high street according to a councillor who has spoken out against plans to open a new restaurant in Dudley.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill raised an objection to open the premises on the site of a former wine bar in High Street, Quarry Bank, at a meeting of Dudley Council's planning committee last week.

The Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward councillor also said he was concerned about the impact the restaurant would have on people living nearby.

The restaurant application, which was submitted by Mrs Husna Bibi, had been recommended for approval by the council's planning officers, who said it would 'enhance the economic prosperity of the town centre'.

Smells

However, Councillor Cotterill said: "At the last count there was about nine food outlets, including the fish and chip shop, and we don't want any more.

"It is certainly in very close proximity to residential accommodation."

The building backs on to flats and Councillor Cotterill said he was worried the positioning of a flue would create unwelcome smells, while delivery trucks and bin lorries coming in and out of the site could also pose other problems.

But members of the planning committee decided that they needed to arrange a visit to see the site for themselves before making a decision on the application.

Historic houses to host vintage fairs

MORE than 50 stalls selling all things vintage are lined up at fairs hosted by two historic houses.

The Vintage, Retro and Handmade Fair is being held at Haden Hill House, in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, this weekend. It also takes place at the Manor House, in Hall Green Road, West Bromwich, on July 18 and 19.

The sale includes vintage clothes, jewellery and household items. The rock and roll Big Screen Jukebox will pump out old tunes and classic cars will be on display. Sandwell councillor Syeda Khatun said: "Why not bring a picnic to enjoy in the grounds or even come dressed in your best vintage outfits."

It costs £1 entrance, for more information call (01384) 569 444 or visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/museums

Brum has bash at sampling beers

THE third annual Birmingham Beer Bash is taking place in Digbeth next month. Among the breweries supplying ales are Sacre Brew, Wolverhampton, Fixed Wheel, Halesowen, and Green Duck, Stourbridge, at The Bond Co, Fazley Street, from July 23 to 25.

A SHOPKEEPER in Halesowen was caught selling dangerous fake vodka which could have made customers 'seriously ill'

Dudley Council trading standards officers made the discovery during a visit to Costcutter on Two Gates Lane. They found three bottles of counterfeit Glens vodka in the shop and another 52 bottles in a basement storeroom.

The vodka was seized by officers and sent away for analysis. It was later confirmed to be counterfeit Glens vodka and consistent with being derived from industrial alcohol.

Faheem Bader, the son of the designated premises supervisor, appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

He admitted buying the fake vodka from a man in a white van for £8 a bottle and failing to pay due tax revenue on the haul.

He pleaded guilty to offences under the Trade Marks Act 1994, through supplying the fake vodka which could have had a serious threat to public health.

He was given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months and was ordered to pay £1,500 towards costs and a victim surcharge of £80.

Following the discovery in September 2013, the premises alcohol licence was reviewed in January 2014 and the designated premises supervisor was removed by Dudley Council's licensing committee.

Intervention

The shop is still open and run by the same family but a different family member is now the designated premises supervisor.

Councillor Rachel Harris, the authority's cabinet member for health, said: "This vodka could have made people seriously ill, which was thankfully avoided by the intervention of our trading standards officers.

"Alcohol licence holders and their staff must be fully aware of the need to only purchase from bona fide suppliers where the alcohol has a full traceable history.

"We will not hesitate to take enforcement action including seizure, prosecution and reviewing and ultimately removing premises licences to protect consumers where public health has been put at risk."

An investigation has been launched by Dudley Council following the raids.

Marchers muster 200 for protest



Police keep a watch on the All Football Fans/Firms March Against Islamisation that included 200 in Dudley

WITH pig masks and chants of 'these streets are ours', some 200 All Football Fans/Firms March Against Islamisation protesters made their presence felt in a rain-soaked Dudley town centre.

Waving flags and chanting anti-Muslim slogans, the group came in the third protest this year against plans to build a new mosque in the town. There was a huge police presence with hundreds of officers drafted in at a cost of thousands to the public purse.

But it was a largely peaceful event with only one 33-year-old man arrested on suspicion of assaulting a police officer. A 50-year-old man was detained to prevent a breach of the peace but later released without charge.

Plans had been for the group to meet at Stafford Street car park but in the pouring rain many decided to find shelter in the town's pubs instead. When they came together, many covering their faces, protesters went in the opposite di-

rection to that planned, away from the town centre.

Carrying English, Welsh and Union Flags, they chanted 'these streets are ours' and 'England Till I Die'.

Earlier, a unity rally by Dudley Unite Against Fascism gathered outside Dudley Council House where speakers including Dudley Council Leader Pete Lowe and Rev Andrew Wickens, of Dudley Interfaith Network, addressed around 50 people.

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Bosses will go to save £1m a year at council

EIGHT senior managers are being made redundant at Dudley Council to save £1 million as part of cost-cutting plans.

Senior director roles at the council are being cut from 22 to 11 as part of the savings scheme.

Five director and 17 assistant director positions are being removed and replaced with three strategic directors and eight chief officer posts.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe said: "We are in the final stages of this tier of the corporate restructure and have welcomed a few new faces to the authority who share our ambition to make this leaner and more efficient than ever before."

"Two of the three strategic directors are in place with an appointment to the third being made over the next few weeks. We are currently recruiting for a chief officer for children's services, which we hope to agree soon. There have been eight redundancies agreed as part of this restructure and there are currently a further three staff at risk of redundancy."

The move had come under fire from opposition councillors concerned about the rise in salaries for the new roles but bosses said the directors and officers would have larger remits.

Councillor Lowe has said the changes are not just a one-off saving but on-going year-on-year to help to save the authority £1m each year.

The council needs to make savings of £22.9m in 2015/16, moving up to £25.3m by 2016/17 and £27.4m to save by 2017/18.

MP volunteers to help in shop

VOLUNTEERS at a Halesowen charity store were joined by the town's MP to help out.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris spent two hours volunteering in Second Time Around. The store is the fundraising shop for Halesowen's Hope Centre.

Mr Morris joined staff at the shop in the Cornbow Centre as a way of thanking volunteers for their contribution.

He said: "There are 127 charities registered in Halesowen and Rowley Regis, involving over 957 regular volunteers and providing 256 local jobs – all this makes a significant contribution to community life in our area."

"Volunteers are the social glue that keep our communities together."

Classical sounds at summer concert

HALESOWEN Orchestra is performing a summer concert featuring works by Smetana, Haydn, Sibelius and Mendelssohn at the Cornbow Hall on July 11 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10, children under 12 free.

Dudley taught me to work hard, says Sir Lenny



Sir Lenny has previously met The Queen

FROM humble beginnings living near Buffery Park to his big break on the TV talent show New Faces and now as a respected serious actor being given a knighthood – Dudley's Lenny Henry has come a long way in a career spanning four decades.

The Comic Relief founder, comedian and Shakespearean actor was raised in the town along with his siblings by immigrant Jamaican parents.

He grew up in Douglas Road and has since heaped praise on the town for providing a springboard for his career in the early days.

As a youngster in the 1970s he attended Bluecoat School where classmates have fond memories of him keeping them entertained with his jokes and Tommy Cooper impressions. His early years were spent in Black Country working men's clubs and he came to the attention of TV bosses and viewers alike when he was a contestant on the talent show New Faces in 1975. He won it with an impersonation of Stevie Wonder.

He made guest appearances on programmes including Celebrity Squares, Seaside Special and The

Ronnie Corbett Show. But his career really started to take off when he hosted anarchic children's programme Tiswas from 1978 to 1981 alongside Chris Tarrant and Sally James. Other shows followed including Three of a Kind with Tracey Ullman and David Copperfield and The Lenny Henry Show.

He was made a Freeman of Dudley borough two years ago. Now aged 56, he said: "People always ask what Dudley did for me – living here taught me you had to work hard to get anywhere in life."

Roll-call of pride as awards are revealed

A TEACHER, a tennis star, GP, community champion and farmer are among those from the Black Country and its surrounding area to be recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours awards.

While Lenny Henry stole the headlines when he let the cat out of the bag about his impending knighthood earlier this week, he is not the only person from the region to be honoured.

Black Country wheelchair tennis champion Jordanne Whiley has been made an MBE for services to sport.

The doubles star from Halesowen has been recognised for her incredible form over the past couple of years which has seen her win five consecutive Grand Slam titles alongside partner Yui Kamiji.

Andrew Griffiths, head teacher at Dudley's Elowes Hall Sports College, has received a prestigious OBE, as has Dr Nick Harding, a senior care chief at the Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group.

Mr Griffiths has guided Elowes Hall to becoming Dudley's best state school in his 13 years at the helm and has also played a key role in the formation of a new academy trust bringing together four schools in the borough.

The 59-year-old said: "I am delighted. This is because of the effort and work of people of the school more widely and a bit of it is each of theirs."

In 2013, the school was named as one of the most improved in the country.

In 2008, Dr Harding was a founding partner in a new super partnership for GPs which brought together 15 health centres and represents around 70,000 patients in the Black Country. People who have made a difference in their communities have also been named on the honours list.

Campaign

Lynn Boleyn led a campaign to save Maidensbridge Primary School in Wall Heath from closure. Her actions led to her being elected as a councillor in Wall Heath, while she then went to spearhead a campaign to raise more than £1 million for a new football centre for the Kewford Eagles. She has been awarded an MBE. Miss Boleyn, of Beechcroft Road, said: "I couldn't believe it."

Farmer Bill Snelson, aged 82, will also get an MBE for services to farming and to his home village of Bobbington, near Stourbridge.

Dr Clare Tailor, of Stourbridge, receives an MBE. Jeremy Hobbs gets a BEM for services to Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton and Hazel Knowles, president of Halesowen St John Ambulance also receives a BEM.



Paralympic and Grand Slam tennis ace 23-year-old Jordanne Whiley of Halesowen is receiving an MBE



Elowes Hall headteacher Andrew Griffiths



School campaigner Lynn Boleyn, of Wall Heath

NEWS IN BRIEF

Next phase of housing project

WORK has begun on the next phase of a £15 million project to revamp thousands of council homes across Dudley.

Money is being spent upgrading kitchens and bathrooms, repairing roofs, rewiring and installing new central heating.

Properties in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen will be among those renovated.

The refurbishment scheme has created jobs for six apprentices and a graduate. Dudley Council has spent £44.5m on improvements.

Tributes are paid to ex-councillor

TRIBUTES have been made for a former Black Country councillor who died at the age of 70.

The leaders of Sandwell Council have paid their respects to Malcolm Bridges, who represented Blackheath for Labour. He was elected to the ward in 2010 but had previously represented Bristnall for many years.

Council leader Darren Cooper said: "It is with great sadness that we learned of Malcolm's death. He was a long-serving and popular councillor who will be greatly missed"

He leaves a wife, Pam, and two sons.

Mayor is backing blood donations

THE Mayor of Dudley is urging people to help save lives by giving blood.

National Blood Week is running this week to highlight the importance of people giving blood.

Councillor Steve Waltho is highlighting blood and organ donation as one of his priorities. In Dudley there were 3,959 people who donated blood at least once last year. That's 19 in every 1,000 people in Dudley aged 17 to 70. Visit www.blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 23 23 to find out if eligible.

Fun day for scout hut will be in hall grounds

A FAMILY fun day will be held in the grounds of Hagley Hall to help raise funds for a Scout group.

The hall's parkland will be hosting the fun event on June 28 from 10.30am until 4pm.

Organisers from Hagley Ramblers Scout Group are preparing for an event featuring Vikings, bushcraft and a bouncy castle in aid of a scout hut revamp. Tickets are £7 for adults and £3.50 for three to 16s. Car park free. See www.hagleyramblers.com

Buddhist summer fair

A SUMMER fair organised by the Jangchub Ling Kadampa Buddhist Centre in Cradley Heath is being held in a nearby park.

The family event is taking place in Mary MacArthur Park, Sydney Road, on Saturday from 11am to 5pm. Admission is free.

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EIGHT thousand bank workers are to be sacked at the flick of a computer switch. The redundancies at HSBC remind us that, while banks may treat us customers with indifference, they reserve their real nastiness for their own loyal, hard-working and long-serving staff.

THE recent recall of "gluten-free" products from supermarkets following fears they may contain gluten, exposes one of life's little oddities. If you add icing to buns, the buns cost more. If you add currants to buns, the buns cost more. But if you remove gluten from buns, the buns still cost more.

"A NATION engorged on cupcakes is a nation in decline." The Daily Telegraph in full harrumphing mode this week, deploring the popularity of the American treat.

YES, the official photos of Prince George and his baby sister Charlotte are sweet. But that is no excuse for one of Fleet Street's finest putting up the headline: "Their Royal Cutenesses." This is England, not Disneyland.



WE no longer speak English as the Queen used to speak it, in the days when monarchs dwelled in pellisses and the lower orders lived in hices. But you do occasionally catch a morsel of genuine 1950s Windsor. In the streets of Leamington Spa a few days ago I heard an old chap explaining, in a cut-glass accent, that the wind was "dine dine". Dying down.

ARISE, Sir Lenworth. Lenny Henry's knighthood was only a matter of time and I bet within a few years he will be in the House of Lords. Not a bad result for a working-class lad from Dudley.

MORE linguistic confusion. After the UK/US mix-ups over fags and rubbers, a reader writes: "My wife is Ukrainian. When Ukrainian friends visit us for the first time, we always have fun telling the female visitor that I am going to take her husband to a public house (in her language a public house is a brothel)."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Builder took money but didn't do work

A COWBOY builder conned his customers out of thousands of pounds and failed to carry out the work, a court heard.

Using different company names, Richard Knight gave out quotes for work on gardens and drives and then demanded a deposit or payment up front.

But the 45-year-old would then disappear, failing to honour appointments and refusing to answer phone calls.

By Robert Cox

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Knight, of Mithill Drive, Rowley Regis, admit three counts of fraud.

He was given a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay compensation to his victims and carry out 250 hours of unpaid work.

Using the names Black Country Drives and Drives and Gardens, Dudley Trading Standards first received complaints about Knight in 2008 and he was warned about his conduct in April 2010.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, told the court he took £650 from a woman to carry out work in her garden in April 2011 but didn't show up and refused to answer her calls. When she asked for her money back, Knight said she could 'dream on'.

He took a £1,000 deposit from a couple after agreeing to carry out work on the drive at their Kingswinford home. Again, Knight again failed to show. The householder went to Knight's home where he was handed half of the money back.

The court heard Knight also took £1,000 from another Kingswinford couple, before disappearing. He eventually returned £300 to the couple but never completed the work.

Recorder Mark Rhind said: "The way you ran your business was completely shambolic, shoddy and disorganised. You had no books, no records and you didn't pay taxes. You didn't declare any income and you operated under several different names. You ignored all warnings and advice."

Knight was ordered to pay £700, £500 and £225 to his victims. He was given an eight-month suspended sentence for each of the three offences and ordered to remain inside his home between 9pm and 6am for the next four months.

Chris O'Gorman, defending, said Knight had not a set out to defraud customers. But Mr Rhind told Knight he was lucky to avoid jail.

Family escape house blaze



Damage at the Hagley semi

Picture: WM Fire Service

A FAMILY escaped a fierce fire which ripped through the second floor of their home in Hagley leaving it severely damaged.

The blaze broke out Monday just after 6.20pm when two people were in the house.

The pair managed to escape before calling 999 and then watched in horror as the fire spread through the semi-detached house in Long Compton Drive. Pictures show the first floor gutted.

Spread

The fire also spread to an adjoining property causing a smoke damage.

Fire crews from Stourbridge and Kidderminster attended the severe blaze and used breathing apparatus and two hose reel jets in bringing the fire under control.

A specialist crew from Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service then attended to investigate the cause of the fire.

A nearby resident, who asked not to be named, said: "The family have been looked after by neighbours."

"Everybody has been pulling together and showing community spirit."

Mayor is lacing up trainers for run

THE Mayor of Dudley will be swapping his chains for trainers as he prepares to take part in this year's Great Black Country Run.

The race will be taking place as a part of this year's Black Country Festival, which will feature a series of Black Country-inspired events across July.

Held in Halesowen and put on by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club in conjunction with Halesowen Athletics Association, the run is on July 5.

Running on behalf of his five chosen charities, the mayor Councillor Steve Waltho has announced he will be running in the 5km event along with mayoress, Jayne Waltho.

The mayor will first officially start the 10km run at 9am before heading off on the 5km route from 11am.

He said: "Both Jayne and I are delighted to be involved in the fourth annual Great Black Country Run, especially on behalf of some wonderful causes."

Fitness

"The run is set to be a great way of promoting fitness and activity to the Black Country and as part of the festival, we hope there will be a big turnout on the day."

Registration is open for the run that is expected to attract hundreds onto the streets of Halesowen. See the www.theblackcountryrun.co.uk website.

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Disappointment for ambulance chiefs at decision over 111 line

AMBULANCE service bosses are 'hugely disappointed' after they were turned down in their bid to run the NHS non-emergency helpline.

West Midlands Ambulance Service stepped in to run the 111 service in 2013 after the former organisation NHS Direct pulled out.

The service is run in Staffordshire by Staffordshire Doctors Urgent Care Service. But the ambulance service, along with other bidders, was turned down when they applied to run it elsewhere in the West Midlands.

Vacancies on the rise for professionals

A LEADING recruiter says there was an 11 per cent increase in the number of jobs available for professionals in the West Midlands last month.

The contract recruitment index prepared by Venn Group, which monitors contractor demand across the West Midlands, saw the number of job vacancies advertised rise from 1,926 in April to 2,137.

It said there was a boom in demand for NHS workforce planners to tackle staff shortages and the finance sector was driving contractor demand.

Avtar Singh, director of Venn Group, said: "The West Midlands, like many other regions, has experienced a boom in the workforce planning and medical staffing arenas in light of recent staff shortages. In attempts to streamline spending, many trusts are also drafting in financial planning professionals to realign NHS budgets. Increased funding within mental health has seen a huge rise in demand for supported housing managers."

The health service commissioners said that they 'did not receive a bid that was acceptable and demonstrated value for money and have therefore exercised their right to abandon the procurement process'.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "We are hugely disappointed that we have not been awarded a contract to continue providing the 111 service."

Stability

"This is despite being one of the highest performing 111 providers in the country each week, for many months bringing stability to the system that was previously not there."

"Since we stepped in to take over the service from NHS Direct in November 2013, we have invested considerable time in providing additional training to staff to ensure the service operates safely."

"We have also increased the number of nurses and paramedics which has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of patients being sent to A&E or requiring an ambulance unnecessarily. Despite this huge amount of work undertaken by the trust, commissioners have informed us that while the necessary standards were met for quality, we could not agree a price for a service that we felt would be safe or sustainable."

Lucky Dave's £10k birthday bonus



Healthy sum — roadworker David Maddock, from Kingswinford, won £10,000 on the Health Lottery

A BLACK Country man is £10,000 richer after winning big on the Health Lottery.

Dave Maddock, from Kingswinford, was in a van on the way to work when he discovered his numbers had come up. Four numbers plus the bonus meant that Mr Maddock scooped the

five-figure prize — just five days before his 30th birthday.

The roads worker plans to spend the money on treating his family, a holiday and maybe new car. Mr Maddock, of Chandler Drive, said: "It was the longest two and a half hours of my life waiting for it to be confirmed."

He bought the ticket from Morrisons in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford. He chose a lucky dip and the winning numbers were 3, 6, 9, 37 and the bonus ball of 44.

Dave bought Champagne, chocolates and flowers for the woman who sold him the winning ticket.

Volunteers to help out at arts festival

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help out this summer at Sandwell Arts Festival.

Organisers are looking for people to lend a hand at the community celebrations taking place on August 15, 16 and 22, in West Bromwich, as well as at other events across the borough.

Sandwell Council arts manager Garry Morris said: "It is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with the community, use your skills and have an exciting experience."

On August 15 and 16 organisers are teaming up with Creative Black Country for a No Fit State Circus performance in West Bromwich. On the second weekend, on August 22, there will be an event celebrating the life of Madeleine Carroll, one of the borough's most famous daughters who became a movie star in Hollywood.

Councillor Syeda Khatun said: "We're really looking forward to this summer's festival and encourage people to get involved to help make it as fantastic as possible. We're always hugely grateful to volunteers who give up their own time to help out."

Volunteers will receive travel expenses, training, references and a T-shirt. Email lucy.monk@sandwell.gov.uk for further details. Volunteers will need to send a CV, attend a short induction and work with a team leader to support the festival.

Marilyn Manson have Wolverhampton gig

THE biggest goth rock band on the planet, Marilyn Manson, are coming to Wolverhampton for a concert at the Civic Hall on November 21.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am, costing £32.45 with booking fee, available from Midland Box Office on 0870 230 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

The Florida band that found fame in the 1990s will be touring in support of ninth album *The Pale Emperor*.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Protesting will never make a difference

ON my return from holiday this weekend, a border control official at Birmingham Airport scrutinised my passport very carefully, observing that there was still a sticker from a trip to Dubrovnik the previous month. "You need to take that off, it's obsolete," he said abruptly. It's greatly comforting that our border staff are so meticulous. It probably explains why we never have any problems with illegal immigration.

ISN'T it interesting that whenever there is talk of austerity, the police station closures and library cuts are never far away. Yet somehow, the traffic-calming industry always seems to escape the brunt of the brutality. When was the last time you ever heard a local authority announce in sombre tones that there will be no red paint, speed bumps or yellow lines this year because the budget has been cut?

Recently, near where I live, the local authority had the truly bonzer idea of installing a central reservation opposite the bus stop, presumably with the idea that it will slow speeding drivers down.

However, I suspect that 95 per cent of the time the boy racers will still drive very fast, only now they will drive very fast through the bus stop. It is what boy racers do. I doubt if the average baseball cap wearer stops and thinks "the council has changed the road markings, I had better drive like an undertaker."

That said, I am convinced that for the remaining five per cent of the time we will see a marked reduction in road speeds. Particularly when Mr Max Power drives splot bang into the side of the bus.

When they said they wanted an integrated transport policy, I didn't realise they meant quite so closely integrated.

AFTER months of aggravation at the hands of various disgruntled protesters who have decided to take it upon themselves to be offended on behalf of the people of the Black Country, it was good to hear that the latest anti-mosque demo was a bit of a damp squib.

After all the threats of thousands of angry football fans coming to vent their spleen, fewer than 200 actually turned out. But, really, when was the last time anything in Britain was ever changed by folk wandering through a town centre with for sale boards in their hand?

When I was at university, there seemed to be a demo every other week, usually about cuts to student grants or pit closures. And what a difference that made.

What I do remember was how the student magazine would proudly proclaim how many coaches it filled, but strangely they always managed to lose quite a few by the time of the protest itself. Still, I suppose that's the risk you take if you offer free transport to London for the start of the Christmas sales.



Man Utd players' infamous reproach with ref Andy D'Urso



Referee Jack Taylor tries to keep control in the 1974 final



Alex Hamil when he refereed at John Richards' testimonial

Blowing the whistle on region's rising refs

The role of football ref is not for everyone, but it seems there are more in our region than ever. **ADAM BURLING** reports

HAVING every decision scrutinised, becoming the target of some less than complimentary chants, fending off groups of players angry at your latest indiscretion.

Who would be a football referee? Plenty of people, it turns out – and there are now more than ever in the Black Country.

The job has its fair share of pitfalls but the Wolverhampton's referees association has just been named the largest in the UK with 132 members.

And the men in black say the thrill of taking charge of a match – whether it is watched by one man and his dog or thousands of supporters – is the biggest attraction of all.

Wolverhampton and District Referees Association chairman Phil Reade argues the future of the game relies on people being willing to put themselves forward for the thankless task of taking charge of a match.

And though the game in the lower leagues may not have changed dramatically in recent decades, referees at the top level face a whole new set of challenges with the development of technology.

They run out onto the pitch in the knowledge that any mistake will be replayed and dissected by highly paid pundits from the comfort of their TV studio.

But they keep doing it – and hundreds of officials dream of getting the chance to blow the whistle at the country's top matches.

When Premier League referees' judgement comes into question, it is worth remembering that he has worked for at least 10 years to reach that standard. Referees start at the bottom and have to climb the ladder, getting assessed three times every 20 games to step up a level. It takes plenty of determination to make it to level one and lead out some of the world's



Referee John Kyte, from Wombourne, who has officiated 4,600 matches, each one documented

highest paid footballers, but Alan Wiley from Burntwood showed it was possible when he became one of the country's best known officials.

Having his fitness questioned by an irate Alex Ferguson after Manchester United's 2-2 draw with Sunderland in 2009 was a world away from his days in the West Midlands (Regional) League.

Mr Reade, himself a level four official, says only people who love football would put up with the abuse and years of hard work.

The 48-year-old said: "It's a very lonely world when you're a referee. It's you against 22 players but you get used to it and you build up the experience."

"Referees that reach the top have put the hours in on cold Sunday mornings."

"They do it because they love the game, not for the money, and it takes a lot of work to make your way in the game."

Mr Reade qualified as a referee in 1997 but is now stepping back from the sport as he is struggling to fit it around his day job as a postman.

But he is confident the next generation of officials will be better than ever.

"We hope that one day one of our members will make it to the Premier League," he said. "Plenty of them are good enough if they stick at it."

It is unlikely there will be many that will match Wolverhampton-born Jack Taylor's achievements, though, after he refereed the 1974 World Cup Final between West Germany and the Netherlands and famously awarded two penalties in the first 30 minutes.

Tributes poured in from legends including Sir Trevor Brooking when Mr Taylor died aged 82 in 2012 - and it raises questions over whether today's referees would command the

same respect from the current stars. Mr Taylor told his friends that refereeing was easier in his era when there were fewer cameras and less player power.

And the Black Country's longest-serving referee John Kyte said the stars of the 1960s and 70s were more well-mannered.

The 71-year-old chalked up more than 4,600 games during a 54-year odyssey that took him from the Dixon Street playing fields in Parkfields, Wolverhampton, to Anfield and Old Trafford.

He said: "Cloughie was a complete gentleman. I always used to think how well-mannered his teams were. There were some big name players, internationals like Shilton and the rest. But when I would go and inspect their studs they would all lift their legs up without question."

But he insisted this should not put anyone off pursuing a career as as referee, as being part of the weekly football ritual can become a way of life.

Preserve

"Football has been my life," he added. "I just love getting out there and meeting people, going to the different grounds."

Other famous former members of the Wolverhampton association are Alex Hamil, who graced the turf of every stadium in the football league during a 35-year career as an official, and Walter Wakeman who finally hung up his whistle at the age of 80 in 2008.

The WRA started life in 1910 as a sub-association of the Birmingham Referees' Association and branched out on its own a dozen years later.

And Mr Reade is keen to preserve its rich heritage and keep attracting younger members. He said many now realised that refereeing could be a 'job for life', and school pupils as young as 14 are now taking courses as part of a Duke of Edinburgh schemes.

Though the rise of technology and its impact on the game seems unstoppable, he insists there will always be a need for a referee.

"As soon as you put the black uniform on it all changes and the players think: 'We were rubbish today – who can we blame?'" he said.

"But without a referee you haven't got a game."

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No room for hatred in my home town

IN regards to the article "Threat to bury pig at mosque site", I would like to put a question to the so-called 'Britain First' leader Mr Paul Golding. Exactly who are they showing solidarity with because there seems to be no one in Dudley that wants them here.

The Britain First group say the Quran says one who touches swine is infested and if swine is buried that the ground is infested. Do they not realise that they that touch it are infested too, as per the Bible?

'And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud,

is unclean to you. You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses' (Leviticus 11:7-8); 'Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. (Deuteronomy 14:8).

Dudley is my home town. We all get along, Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, etc. Dudley welcomes anyone regardless of background, race or religion, but there is no room for outsiders that bring hatred. A mosque is a place to worship God.

FATIMA
Brierley Hill

Churches: use them or lose them

REGARDING church buildings closing, I'm afraid this is largely due to the increased secularism of modern Britain.

Those Christians who regularly attend churches of all denominations care very much about the closure of the buildings in which they worship but the costs of maintaining those buildings becomes prohibitive as congregation numbers fall and income decreases.

The older the building, the greater the costs to meet regulations which were not applicable when they were constructed.

Church buildings are not museums, they exist to provide centres for worship of Our Lord.

It is unfair to expect that taxpayers should maintain them, although many people wish to use the facilities for christenings, weddings and funerals without thought that a faithful few are paying to keep them open.

In summary, the lesson here is use them or lose them!

J WISE
Lower Gornal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Invisible illness that causes chronic pain

I WOULD like to bring attention through the Letters page to anyone suffering from Fibromyalgia.

There is an online petition that is aiming for 100,000 signatures to present to the Government and health ministers to make them aware of the need for more recognition, research and funding into this little known and horrendous illness.

I was diagnosed nearly seven years ago and I can honestly say it has spoilt my life. It affects the brain and nervous system and virtually affects every part of the body. Chronic pain is endured on a daily basis with so many other symptoms which could fill this page. It adds up to untold misery.

As we all look OK, in fact most sufferers appear to look fit and well, myself included, we get very little empathy — despite the fact that people with Fibromyalgia have one of the highest suicide rates.

We need all the help we can get and can I suggest to anyone who is struggling with this debilitating illness to reach out to those who understand.

Support groups are a lifeline, you can attend monthly meetings and there is a helpline to keep in touch, so that you don't feel so alone with it all.

There are people who really do know what you are going through.

J BLAKE
Dudley

Zoo trip was well worth it

DURING half term I took my six-year-old granddaughter for a trip to Dudley Zoo. I did not know what to expect as it has been a long time since my last visit and at that time it was in a very sorry state.

How surprised I was to see what a lot of work has gone into improving its appearance and the facilities.

There are lots of places to sit and watch the animals and to have your picnic or to use the on-site catering. The animals all looked healthy and very well-cared for.

My granddaughter really enjoyed her trip and we spent nearly seven hours there but fatigue set in before we had seen it all, so I anticipate another visit very soon.

For those of you who, like me, remember Dudley Zoo as a dilapidated 1960s zoo I think you will be surprised.

P HIBBERD
Oldbury

Council quick to take action

IN these days of austerity and limited funding for our councils, people are all too quick to criticise.

I would like to congratulate Dudley Council. On three occasions now I have made contact with the highways department and more recently the street cleansing department, regarding the state of certain roads.

Within several days the defects were repaired and on the first working day after I contacted the street cleansing department the graffiti was removed. Well done, keep up the good work.

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Tom, front centre, sat with Joe Davies and Jack Baker, both 92 at the Legion's base



Tom Brewin with his 90th birthday cake at the Willenhall club



Dealing with one of the wounded in the woodland surrounding Arnhem in 1944

Birthday brings back memories of ill-fated Arnhem fight for Tom, 90

HE IS one of the Black Country's last remaining survivors of the ill-fated Battle of Arnhem and he has celebrated his 90th birthday with comrades at the Royal British Legion Club in Willenhall.

It was a bitter sweet experience for Tom Brewin, as the Second World War veteran recalled his memories of the bloody battle fought in and around the small Dutch town in September 1944, and his subsequent capture which saw him held as a PoW for eight months.

Mr Brewin, from Penn, Wolverhampton, is one of the last few living veterans of the ill-fated military operation.

He is the current president of Wolverhampton's Parachute Regiment Association, and on June 2 he was joined by 15 fellow members for a chat and a few points to celebrate his birthday at the Willenhall British Legion base. Although Mr Brewin says the group prefer not to dwell on the

MEMORY LANE

By Peter Madeley

conflict these days, his memories of his time in the war remain vivid to this day.

Mr Brewin was called up at the age of 18 and after training in Glasgow and Worcester, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion South Staffs Regiment in Christmas 1944, which by that time was already an airborne battalion.

At that time morale among the regiment was low. After taking part in the invasion of Sicily more than 100 troops drowned after being dropped in the Mediterranean one mile from shore.

"Sicily had been a disaster for those that were there. It was almost a relief to go to Arnhem to get away from it all."

It was expected to be a straightforward mission with little opposition from the Nazis, but a very different story unfolded.

The troops landed, via gliders, in a field on the northern side of Wolfhagen.

Their first day, September 17, 1944, was incident-free, but by the following morning it emerged that the Divisional Commander was missing. "He had been taken by the Germans," said Mr Brewin.

"We were supposed to stay and protect the landing zone for the next day's second lift, but the order changed and we were told to find our way to the bridge over the Rhine. "But the Jerries were very smart at blocking all the approaches to the bridge."

Just 10 days after landing the entire battalion was captured when they became stranded on a river bank in the town of Oosterbeek. "Dawn broke and we were all there on the banks of the river, with no ammo and no food," Mr Brewin continued. "There must have been a good 200 of us."

"We had a choice, pack up or get shot. They surrounded us and marched us all the way to Arnhem to show us off to the Dutch. It was their way of saying they weren't finished yet." The British troops were loaded onto cattle trucks at the railway station.

"They said they'd give us rations for 24

hours for a 17-hour journey, but we were on there for five days," added Mr Brewin. As a PoW, he was mainly based in prison camps in Czechoslovakia. He describes the day of liberation as 'a complete anti-climax'. "It was a strange day. We woke up and all the guards had gone. We presumed they'd just abandoned their posts."

"The Russians came past but they had no food for us. We made it and the Americans looked after us. Within a day we were put on a plane to Belgium and then back to England."

For Mr Brewin getting home to Whitmore Reans was "a bloody beautiful feeling", but his father Alvin was less than impressed with his wartime endeavours.

"The old chap was in the Coldstream Guards and fought through the Battle of Mons without getting wounded," recalled Mr Brewin. "He called me a 10-day soldier, because that's how long I was over there before being captured!"

In 1949 Mr Brewin married Annie, who is now 91, and the pair had four children.



Tom Brewin with the South Staffs 2nd Battalion in 1943

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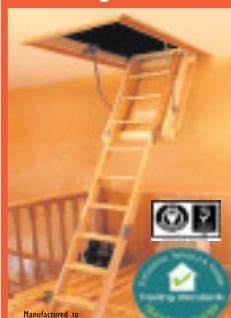
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Charity bosses on site visit at pet hospital



PDSA Director General Jan McLoughlin and chairman John Smith took a tour of the Oldbury site for the new pet hospital

CHARITY bosses have visited the site of a £1.8 million animal hospital which builders will soon complete

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) is building the centre off Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, to replace its existing base in Quinton.

The hospital will house operating theatres, a critical care ward and the latest diagnostic and surgical equipment.

PDSA Director General, Jan McLoughlin and chairman John Smith took a tour of the site, which will open to the public in July.

More than £1m has been raised to pay for the hospital, to be called The Marian and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence after a heart surgeon and a cardiologist, both animal lovers, who made a significant donation.

Morale slips in Sandwell

LESS than half of staff at a Black Country NHS trust would recommend working there to a friend, a survey has revealed.

Just 48 per cent of nearly 1,000 workers asked at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust gave a positive response to the 'friends and family test'.

That was the worst result in the Black Country and Staffordshire and nearly 20 per cent below the national

average. It comes as 200 staff face the axe in the next year at the trust, which bosses admit has affected morale.

Walsall was also far below the average with 52 per cent, compared to 62 per cent at Wolverhampton and 58 per cent at the University Hospital North Midlands NHS Trust, which runs the County Hospital in Stafford.

Only Dudley, at 85 per cent, came in above the England average of 67 per cent.

Staff were surveyed in April. Six months earlier 68 per cent of staff said they would recommend working at the

trust that runs Sandwell Hospital and City Hospital in Winslow Green.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's score rocketed from 65 per cent to 85 per cent.

More than 4,000 staff were questioned across the five trusts. The survey is intended to monitor the mood of staff in the NHS so bosses can address any issues.

In Sandwell the job losses are the next phase of wider plans by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust to cut around 1,400 posts over five years.

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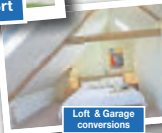
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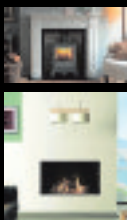
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Muse rocking hard on anti-war album

ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

DEVONIAN stadium rockers Muse are at their very best when they go over the top, so are very good indeed on seventh studio album **Drones**.

An anti-militarism concept album (with classic prog rock/Pink Floyd style sleeve), it is full of the kind of Queen-like grand gestures that have made them firm favourites, apparent on the anthemic *Mercy, Defector and Revolt*. They also rock very heavy indeed, the spirit of Black Sabbath infusing the swaggering *Psycho* and singer-guitarist Matt Bellamy providing fretwork fireworks on *Reapers*. And if you want epic, how about *The Globalist*, clocking in at ten minutes.

Muse don't cover new territory here but they do what they do very well.

The buzz around London four-piece *Wolf Alice* started more than two years ago with debut single *Fluffy* and gathered pace with support slots for the *Manics* and others. Some have seemed to write off the outfit fronted by Ellie Rowsell as grunge revivalists before hearing debut LP, *My Love Is Cool*. There's more to them than that.

Opener *Turn To Dust* blends spooky folk with *Twin Peaks* atmospherics, the funky *Foals*-like *Bros* looks back at childhood and the intense *Pixies* influenced *You're A Germ* is a howling condemnation of a sexual predator.

Drummer Joel Amery delivers a dreamy vocal for the haunting pastoral *Swallowtail*, whilst Rowsell gives a light pop vocal for the swirling *Soapy Water*. However, the fearsome *Fluffy* still delivers those grunge dynamics and high-pitched squeals.

Jason Derulo covers all bases on his album *Everything Is 4*. It opens



Muse get heavy — Dominic Howard, Matthew Bellamy and Chris Wolstenholme

with a slick double salvo of top-notch R&B/pop songs *Want To Want Me* and *Cheyenne* (you can almost hear him thinking beat that Bruno Mars and Sam Smith). Nor does he scrimp on the quirky hooks that first got him noticed, *Get Ugly* and *Pull-Up* both have irritatingly catchy effects.

He also scores high with special guest collaborations, enlisting rising star Meghan Trainor on pop gem *Painkiller*, Jennifer Lopez on *Try Me* and both Stevie Wonder (for his harmonica) and Keith Urban on the funky/bluesy *Broke*. He's actually eclipsed by Julia Michaels' power vocal performance in the duet *Trade Hearts*.

This album is full of potential hit singles, you could soon be hearing a lot of *Love Me Down* and *X2CU*.

The superstar from Florida is due to play Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on January 30, 2016.

No one else sounds like *Everything*, due to Jonathan Higgs' rapid-fire often falsetto vocals (in normal register he reminds me of Tom Robinson and Julian Cope). Their frenetic, restless pop/rock is distinctive,

amusing, bizarre and appealing on third album **Get To Heaven**.

Highlights include *Distant Past*, reminiscent of Danish popsters Junior Senior, the disco shuffle of *Get To Heaven*, the portentous *Fortune 500*, the rap and wailer *Blast Doors*, as gorgeously outlandish as Billy McKenzie's Associates, and the Philip Glass influenced euphoric *Zero Pharaoh*. Check them out at Birmingham's O2 Academy on November 14.

London band **Gengahr** make an impressive debut with **A Dream Outside** and it's a real grower. The psych indie outfit have a sound built around falsetto vocals by Felix Bushe and John Victor's exciting guitar motifs.

Moody surf instrumental *Dark Star* robs the album of its momentum midway but there are plenty of stand-out tracks including the woozy new single *Heroine* and plaintive *Bathed In Light*. Check them out if you like *Bombay Bicycle Club* and/or *Tame Impala*.

After supporting The Maccabees in May, Gengahr have a gig in their own right at the Hare And Hounds in Kings Heath on October 12.

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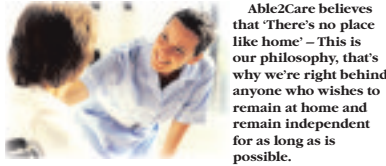
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'No fancy dress' edict for new MP

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor



Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin

WOULD a Dudley manifesto help Labour get back in touch with the electorate and win in 2020? Alex Salmond seems to think so.

Labour has belatedly woken up to the realisation that most people in Britain want a referendum on the EU and has dropped its opposition.

Ed Miliband's mealy-mouthed rhetoric was about a referendum only in the event of a transfer of powers to Brussels.

What he appeared to have failed to grasp entirely was how many people felt things have already gone too far.

Whether they have or not is a matter for debate and for renegotiation. But the referendum is long overdue.

Miffed

Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, is one of the few who has been saying for many years that a referendum was necessary. He wanted it sooner rather than later.

But in the Commons last week the SNP's Mr Salmond, campaigning against the referendum, suggested Mr Austin had been happily campaigning against it before Labour's election defeat made them think otherwise.

Mr Austin was rather miffed and raised a point of order with Speaker John Bercow to correct the record.

A tickled Speaker replied that Mr Salmond 'wasn't attending closely to election literature in Dudley, his mind

being perhaps focused elsewhere'. Dudley's one place all the parties need to focus their attentions on.

It delivered seven UKIP councillors and its Parliamentary constituencies all saw their incumbents' majorities increase at the General Election - three for the Tories and one for Labour. That suggests a breadth of views and opinions with which to form the next set of manifesto pledges. Alex Salmond can certainly be forgiven for taking little interest in Dudley. The Tories and Labour, not to mention the Greens who have a councillor there, must never take it for granted.

Meanwhile Walsall's David Winnick asked whether the Prime Minister might employ the same choice term once used by John Major for any Eurosceptic rebels in his cabinet.

Foreign secretary Philip Hammond assured him he will not. What term, you ask? How to describe it in a family newspaper... 'a person born of parents not married to each other'.

The spectre of Aidan Burley's attendance at a stag party where the groom wore a Nazi uniform haunted the Tories for much of the last Parliament. But it was laid to rest by the success of Amanda Milling, who held on to Cannock Chase when many would have predicted Labour would win it back.

Ms Milling was welcomed to Westminster in the Commons by the work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith with some wise words: "As she represents Cannock Chase, I will offer her one little bit of advice: She should make sure she does not wear any fancy dress, as this does not help one's prospects."

Picture



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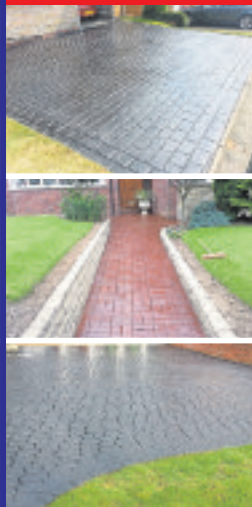


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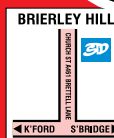
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Ex-girlfriend stabbed in bread knife attack

A MAN stabbed his former partner with a bread knife as their tempestuous affair ended in bloodshed, a court heard.

Scott Deeley was jailed for 16 months for the 'sustained and repeated' attack.

The 24-year-old grabbed the weapon as a meeting with his ex to 'sort things out' turned ugly, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. She was left with cuts to her hand and arm as well as bruising all over her body, revealed Mr Delroy Henry, prosecuting.

The pair had been together 'on and off' for a year before the final bust up at Deeley's home in Narrow Lane, Halesowen, on January 31.

The couple had parted as the relationship hit the rocks and Deeley had sent a series of unpleasant text messages to her before they agreed to meet in an attempt to resolve their differences.

Bloodstained

After a drink together, they decided to return to his home so that she could collect her belongings.

Soon afterwards she was pushed to the floor by Deeley and the next thing she remembered was waking up in the kitchen as paramedics treated her injuries, the court heard.

Police called to the scene recovered the bloodstained knife.

Mr Henry concluded: "This was the culmination of what was a very turbulent relationship."

Mr Andrew Molloy, representing Deeley, said: "He accepts what he did was unlawful. It was not intentional but he does accept it was reckless."

"Both had been drinking and the relationship is now well and truly over."

The defendant admitted assaulting his former partner causing her actual bodily harm.

Duran Duran home city gig



Duran Duran will be back on home turf for a concert at the Genting Arena in December after the release of their 14th studio album, Paper Gods

BIRMINGHAM'S New Romantic rock icons Duran Duran are coming home to the city's Genting Arena as part of their UK tour later this year.

Singer Simon Le Bon, keyboardist Nick Rhodes, bassist John Taylor and drummer Roger Taylor will be at the NEC's mega venue on December 4 as part of their UK tour to promote their 14th studio album, Paper Gods, which is due for release on September 11.

The new album has been co-produced by Uptown Funk hitmaker Mark Ronson and Chic star Nile Rodgers and features special guests

including Janelle Monáe, former Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist John Frusciante, Kiesza and Lindsay Lohan. "We've allowed ourselves the time to make music that we can be proud of," said singer Simon Le Bon.

Formed in Birmingham in 1978, Duran Duran went on to sell 100 million records worldwide with international hits including Rio and Hungry Like The Wolf.

Tickets for the December gig go on sale tomorrow (Friday) from 9am at www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 338 8000.

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Busy Violet celebrates her 100th birthday with family

AS a keen gardener and cook, and someone who likes to get out of the house as often as possible, Violet Benjamin is one sprightly 100-year-old.

She celebrated her centenary in the company of family members at her home in Wall Heath.

Despite reaching the age of 100, Violet, who still lives independently, continues to astound her loved ones with her boundless energy.

Her niece Pamela Johnson said: "She looks about 75 – it's absolutely amazing."

"She still does things in the garden and cooks."

"She goes out ever such a lot. Every Monday she goes to Salvation Army meetings."

Violet said she does what she wants and has no intention of letting her age get in the way.

She said: "I have worked hard all my life. I just keep going."

"I don't let anything get on top of me, I just keep pushing forward — I can't sit in the chair and fade away."

Widow Violet was born in Bank Street, Cradley Heath.

Her parents ran the Loving Lamb Inn in Northfield Road, Nether-ton and she had two sisters and a brother.

Cook

She attended Northfield Road Primary School and Sir Gilbert Cloughton High School in Dudley.

She then worked mainly as a cook at Regis Hall in Old Hill and Quarry Bank junior and senior school.

Violet, who was married to Ted, has six children, 17 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.



100 years young — Violet Benjamin, of Wall Heath, opens her cards during her birthday party

Bond music man is licensed to thrill

TOP British film composer David Arnold, whose work includes several Bond themes, will be licensed to thrill movie music fans at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Friday, June 26.

The Luton-born composer, whose work includes Independence Day, Stargate, Godzilla, TV's Sherlock and five 007 movies — Casino Royale, Quantum of Solace, Die Another Day, The World Is Not Enough, Tomorrow Never Dies — presents A Night at the Movies with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Olympic

Arnold has also worked with pop and rock acts including Bjork, Pulp, Kaiser Chiefs and Shirley Bassey, and was musical director of the 2012 London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Tickets start from £24.50 plus fees, see www.thsh.co.uk or call the box office on 0121 345 0600.

Unit helps the victims of forced marriages

HIDDEN in the Black Country, vulnerable women, men, children, and even the disabled, are imprisoned in a life of servitude.

As victims of forced marriage, they are often raped, beaten, and live an existence akin to slavery.

It is estimated between 8,000 and 10,000 people in the UK are forced into a marriage – a rate of 30 per day.

The Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star has lifted the lid on this abhorrent crime that masquerades under the cloak of religion and culture.

Last year alone, 399 victims from the West Midlands called charity Karma Nirvana for help over forced marriage. Since January the charity has had 213 calls.

The charity supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour crime and says the West Midlands is one of the top five worst areas for the crimes.

The Forced Marriage Unit – a specialist team from the Home Office and Foreign Office – goes a step further. They say the West Midlands is the second worst region for this offence, accounting for 12 per cent of all cases in the UK.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act, reveals West Midlands Police has recorded 85 cases where suspected forced marriage had been flagged up in the last five years.

Cruel

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Forced marriage is an important issue that we are working hard to tackle. It is a cruel and unacceptable crime."

"This crime has been hidden for too long and we need to bring it out into the open."

"I want victims to know that if they come forward, that this crime is taken very seriously and that support will be there to help them."

"The most important thing is that we have the services in place to help



Crime chief David Jamieson

victims out of these situations."

The number of forced marriages recorded by police in the West Midlands is at its highest rate for five years. Police recorded 29 in 2014 – up from 11 the year before. There was 15 in 2012, seven in 2011 and 23 in 2010. The figures reveal 79 victims were female, five male, 11 were children. Just 12 people were charged with offences ranging from sexual abuse and violence.

Most victims are of south Asian origin but there have been cases amongst eastern European and traveller/gypsy families.

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds said: "I am concerned about the problem in the West Midlands and I am sure these figures do not tell the full story. I expect there are many more out there who remain hidden."

If you have concerns about yourself, a friend or relative call the Forced Marriage Unit on 0207 008 0151 or email fmunit@fco.gov.uk

Car insurer celebrates

CLASSIC car insurance brokers Footman James has announced a Drive to Work Day to celebrate the first anniversary of the launch of its FJ+ cover options.

Dudley-based Footman James, supported by insurance partner Ageas Insurance, is offering all classic car, kit car, ex-military and vintage commercial vehicle customers free Drive to Work cover on Friday, July 24.

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MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651 ☺

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581 ☺

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ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513 ☺

CARING lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. Text only to Mailbox No: 4721992

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JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285 ☺

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LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223 ☺

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FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195 ☺

KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091 ☺

SHERRIE 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417067 ☺

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989 ☺

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

Men seeking women

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MALE 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651 ☺

MALE, outgoing 5ft10 medium built, seeking the right lady, local and caring. Likes to have fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4750169

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

MIKE, 61, 5ft 5in, Coalville area, seeking 30+ year old lady with long blonde hair and blue eyes for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4709567

MALE nurse, tall dark and handsome, 44yrs old, easy going, romantic, seeks female for lots of off duty fun and romance! Derby area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4175212

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WIDOWER 70 plus, seeking female for friendship. Love me love my dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417439 ☺

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5FT 9ins 68yr old male, many interests, theatre, cinema, walking, holidays, meals out, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417521

COLIN 48, kind, loving, seeks cuddly large lady for love, ltr and romance, must like hugs/kisses/cuddles. Looks unimportant. Text only to Mailbox No: 4730876

WIDOWER 72, genuine, seeking female, 60-70, likes to travel for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417553

JAMES GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417469 ☺

WIDOWER 70 plus, seeking female for friendship. Love me love my dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417439 ☺

6FT black male, medium-well built, attractive, friendly, outgoing, seeks slim, attractive female, 30-45 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 334003

JAMES GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417469 ☺

Ricky ready to rock castle at Sounds in the Grounds



The Kaiser Chiefs with Ricky Wilson, front, are ready to rock Warwick Castle this July — picture by Danny North

RICKY Wilson will be king of the castle when the Kaiser Chiefs headline a weekend of rock, rap and classical music at Warwick Castle next month.

The Leeds rockers, fronted by The Voice judge and mentor Wilson, will top a three act bill in the grounds of the historic landmark on Friday, July 10.

The band have released five albums over 15 years, including last year's chart-topper Education Education & War. The band's hit singles include Ruby, I Predict A Riot, Oh My God, and Never Miss a Beat.

The Sounds in the Grounds event will also feature rapper and singer-songwriter Professor Green. The 31-year-old from Hackney (real name Stephen Manderson) has had a chart-topping single, Read All About It with Emeli Sandé, and three hit albums including last year's Growing Up in Public.

Opening the show will be 21-year-old London singer Ella Eyre, best know for her hit collaborations as singer on Rudimental's Waiting All Night and with DJ Fresh on Gravity. She co-wrote Sigma and Paloma Faith hit Changing. The winner of the 2014 MOBO award for best newcomer releases debut album Feline this summer and recently released new single Together.

From pop to Proms, it's all change at the castle on Saturday, July 11, with an evening of classical favourites including patriotic favourites such as Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will be joined by Irish opera singer Lucy O'Byrne, as The Voice runner-up makes her first festival appearance.

Tickets start at £45 (adults) and £30 (children) for the rock concert with family packages available, and £38 (adults) and £15 (children) for the classical event. For further information see the www.soundsinthegrounds.com website.



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Brave Rosie steps out to help patients



Three-year-old Rosie Byrne, seen with mother Jenny, was determined to help other people with cancer

MEET Sedgley's little Rosie Byrne, the three-year-old who has raised more than £300 for charity after completing a lap of her school playing field.

But this was no mean feat for Rosie as she suffers from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and has been in and out of intensive care for months and unable to walk.

But mum Jenny said she had made 'miracle' progress and decided to raise money for Cancer Research UK and her friends at Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

To raise the cash, Rosie walked around the field at St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery in Telford Gardens, Wolverhampton. The youngster was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia just two days after becoming a nursery pupil at the school.

Jenny, aged 35 from Hickmerlands Lane, Sedgley, said the last few months had been heartbreaking for the family but they were all so proud of their little fighter.

"To see her walking again now is a miracle for us," she said. "She has been walking with a frame and took her first unaided steps in months."

Fraudster's £50k will compensate his victims

A COWBOY workman responsible for a dodgy driveway con has forked out £50,000 in compensation to Black Country victims.

The payment was made by cheque to Dudley Council by 46-year-old father-of-11 Patrick Dunne, which will also help with the cost of the local authority prosecution that saw the fraudster locked up for 15 months.

He was charged after his company JJ Callaghan laid substandard drives in the Black Country.

Mr Philip Brunt, representing the council, said: "The authority has received the cheque and, as a result, proceeds of crime proceedings against him have been discontinued."

Sank

Dunne pocketed £15,000 after tricking five households into paying for driveways into which cars sank within days of work being finished. They will now all be compensated. The drives were laid in Dudley, Halesowen and Tettenhall between February 2009 and December 2010.

Prosecutor Mark Jackson told an earlier hearing: "He is a menace to the commu-

By John Scott

nity. He ran a fraudulent business and conned his customers in almost every aspect of his dealings with them. He lied about his name, his business address, that works were guaranteed, that his business offered the best in customer care, when payments for work would be requested and what work would be carried out.

"He failed over and over again to provide customers with information about their right to cancel and the quality of his work was appalling."

Dunne, of Stafford Road, Coven was jailed after admitting being involved in a business to defraud customers and pleaded guilty to 12 further fraud charges and eight of misleading commercial practice.

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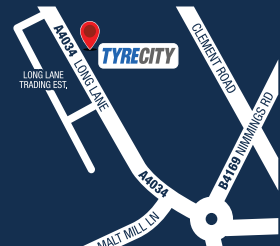
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Elton feeling the love at stadium



Saturday's alright for this Elton fan at Walsall



Can you feel the love tonight, a kiss during one of the ballads

'I HAVE grown up with the songs and now I play them to my children. His music is timeless.'

This fan's words were echoed by the thousands of others eagerly packed into Banks's Stadium for a once-in-a-lifetime performance by Sir Elton John, writes Katy-Rose Meaney.

"He is a legend," continues the excited Emma Fox, 31, from Aldridge. "I am honoured to see him perform. It is my first time and to see him sing in my home town is the icing on the cake. The show

The fans were still standing after 'rock it' man Elton John's triumphant concert at Walsall FC

was incredible and the atmosphere was fantastic."

Emma was one of the 14,000 fans who watched the legend perform in Walsall – a location hand-picked by Sir Elton himself.

True to his rock and roll roots, the Rocket Man singer arrived on Saturday by helicopter. But that was where the A-list behaviour stopped, as there was no dramatic start to the show and he didn't keep his fans waiting. The crowd

didn't even get a countdown to his arrival, they were either in their seats and ready at 8pm or not.

The musician simply walked on stage, waved politely to the adoring audience in front of him and sat down at his black Yamaha piano in a dazzling, sequin-covered suit, featuring the initials 'EJ' on the back.

Thousands of fans of all ages flocked to the football ground when gates opened at 5pm, ready to see an icon at work. The threatening wet weather did nothing to dampen their spirits as people – many dressed in wacky glasses, brightly-coloured suits and even Union Flag jackets – chanted the lyrics to Sir Elton's best-known songs as they flooded through the gates.

It was a show for all generations for the Coates family from Pelsall. Mother Lisa said: "I've been a fan for around 30 years and my son James became a fan when he started playing the keyboard when he was seven. I've always wanted to see him live and here is just perfect." To kick-start the night, support act Bright Light Bright Light entertained the crowd ahead of the arrival of the main man.

Once on stage, Sir Elton let his legendary status do most of the talking, although he did thank the audience and the football club.

He opened his set with Funeral for a Friend/Love Lies Bleeding before performing a selection of songs from the Goodbye Yellow



You want more? Elton John gets the Banks's crowd worked up

Brick Road album, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Fans stood and absorbed his performances, not taking their eyes off his fingers dancing across the piano as they bashed out each classic on the stage. He went on to perform Candle in the Wind – the first song to have the entire crowd singing along, word for word.

Sir Elton talked to the crowd throughout the gig, thanking them for their years of support.

He said it was 'wonderful to be here', adding: "Thank you, thank you, thank you. For your loyalty,

your spirit and generosity through good times and bad," he said. The former Watford chairman is believed to have chosen the venue because he had fond memories of the football club.

"You have been an amazing audience Walsall," he said. "Thank you Walsall Football Club for making me so welcome. I hope you have a fabulous season."

At the end of the two-and-a-half-hour gig, the 68-year-old simply bowed to the audience, ending the night with an encore of just one more song, Crocodile Rock.

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Jools Holland



Saturday, 6.30pm
 Civic Hall, W'ton

Jools Holland makes a welcome return to the Civic Hall, with his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra and special guests promised, the night is not one to be missed.
 Visit www.wolvscivic.co.uk

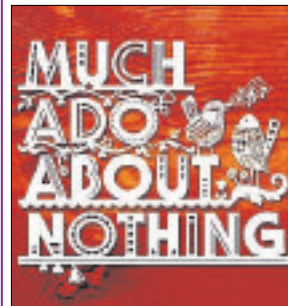
The Apple Tree



Fri, Sat, 7.30pm (Sat - 2.30pm)
 Gatehouse, Stafford

From the brilliant song writing team behind Fiddler On The Roof comes another witty, tuneful and utterly charming musical The Apple Tree which takes place over three comedic vignettes.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Much Ado About Nothing



Thursday - July 11
 Stafford Castle

The cultural highlight of the summer returns with one of Shakespeare's wit-tiest comedies being staged at Stafford Castle from Thursday. Much Ado About Nothing focuses on two pairs of lovers.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Barbara Dickson



Saturday, 7.30pm
 Grand Theatre, W'ton

In this special performance Barbara Dickson, along with her accomplished band, explores her catalogue of songs at an intimate level letting the words and melodies take 'centre stage'.
 Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

ROCK & POP

Jools Holland
 Sat at 6.30pm, £26 - £39.90
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
 WV1 1RQ.
 Call 0870 320 7000

Suzanne Vega
 Mon at 7.30pm
 £28.50 - £38.50
 Town Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Ray Quinn with his band
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 £16.50 - £19.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Moody Blues
 Sat at 8pm, £47.39
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Ultimate Thunder + Pure Purple
 Fri at 7.30pm, £9 - £10
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Thank You for the Music
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 £19.75 - £27.50
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
 Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Take That
 Mon, Tue at 7.30pm,
 £61.20 - £94.20
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Waterloo - The Best of ABBA
 Tribute Show
 Sat at 7.30pm, £23.40
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Bad Manners - The Best Of British Ska
 Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £22.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

RNB & SOUL

Jersey Boy feat: Stephen James
 Wed at 7.30pm, £6 - £8
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Session
 Wed at 7pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Mumbo Jumbo
 Fri at 8.30pm, £7 - £8
 Ashwood Marina, Ashwood
 Lower Lane, Kingswinford,
 DY8 0AQ.
 Call 01384 27996

Chase Folk Singer's Night
 Fri at 8.30pm, £3
 The Five Ways Inn,
 Cannock, WS12 3HU.
 Call 01543 279022

Black Diamond Singers Night
 Fri at 8.30pm,
 The Lamp Tavern, Birmingham,
 B5 6AH. Call 0121 622 2599

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm, £1
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
 Walsall, WS3 4BP.
 Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
Singers' Night
 Thu at 8pm, £2(£1 singers)
 Brewood Cricket Club,
 Brewood, ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

West Coast Eagles
 Thu at 8.30pm, £10 - £12
 The Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks,
 Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

JAZZ & BLUES

The Blues Band
 Thu at 8pm, £19.50 - £24
 Guildhall, Bore Street,
 Lichfield, WS13 6LU.
 Call 01543 262223

Spacemans Apes
 Sat at 7pm, £5.50
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Layla Zoe & her band
 Sun at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Lichfield Blues and Jazz Festival
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £45
 Guildhall, Lichfield, WS13 6LU.
 Call 01543 262223

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Barbara Dickson in Concert
 Sat at 7.30pm, £29.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Local Live 2015
 Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, £10
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Only Men Around - On The Road
 Fri at 7.30pm, £23
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Paul Jacobs Recital
 Fri at 1pm, £9.50 - £20
 Symphony Hall,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham Conservatoire
Symphony Orchestra presents
Petrushka
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15
 Town Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham Cathedral
Tercentenary Festival of Voices
 Sat at 5pm, £12 - £16
 Town Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Dresden Philharmonic
 Sun at 3pm, £9.50 - £43
 Symphony Hall,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

Big Band and Swing
 Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £17.50
 Town Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Indiana Menzel - SOLD OUT
 Mon at 8pm, Symphony Hall,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

AC Academy Sing Symphony
Hall - Armonico Consort
 Tues at 7pm, prices vary
 Symphony Hall,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Summer Showcase
 Thur at 7.15pm, £12.50 - £41
 Symphony Hall,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA
 Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Rat Pack Vegas
Spectacular Show
 Thu at 7.30pm,
 £19.90 - £25.90
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Boy Who Became A Beetle
 Fri at 1pm, 7.30pm, £5 - £28
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Be Festival 2015
 Mon at 12pm, Free
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Merrily We Roll Along
 Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, £12
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

An Evening of Clairvoyance ...
 Fri at 7.45pm, £12.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Redditch Has Talent
 Thu at 7pm, £5.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Movies to Musicals
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £9 - £45
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Dreamboats & Miniskirts
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at
 2.30pm, £15.50 - £33.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

At Ease
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £10 - £12
 The Old Joint Stock,
 Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

The Carpenters Story
 Wed at 7.30pm,
 £18.90 - £26.40
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Apple Tree
 Fri and Sat at 7.30pm
 £7 - £8
 Stafford Gatehouse, Stafford
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 Wed and Thur at 1pm and 4pm
 £16
 Stafford Gatehouse, Stafford
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Much Ado About Nothing
 Thursday at 8pm, Prices Vary
 Stafford Castle.
 Call 01785 619080

DANCE

Carmina burana
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £16 - £47
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Birmingham Royal Ballet - Sylvia
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,
 £16 - £50
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Great Big Dance Off
 Mon at 3pm, 6.30pm, £11.90
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel
 Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy
 Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

On the Edge!
 Thu at 8pm, £10
 The Old Joint Stock,
 Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

Mark Grist and M C Mixy
 Fri at 7pm, £11.75 - £13.75
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

FASHION

Vintage Clothes Day
 Sun at 11am - 5pm, £1.50
 Crepe Station Cafe, 24 Stone
 Street, Dudley, DY1 1NT.
 Call 01384 238555

Wedding Open Evening
 Tue at 5.30pm - 7.30pm,
 West Midland Safari Park,
 Bewdley, DY12 1LF.
 Call 01299 40211

OTHER EVENTS

The Autism Show
 Sat at 9am, £11.00 Plus
 The NEC Birmingham,
 B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Toy Collectors Fair
 Sun at 10.30am - 3.30pm,
 £2 - £6.50
 The NEC Birmingham,
 B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Summer Fete - Moat Hall Primary
 Fri at 3.30pm - 6.30pm, Free
 Moat Hall Primary School, Wal-
 sall, WS6 6BX.
 Call 441922857005

Berkswich Summer Fete
 Sun at 1.30pm, £0.50p - £1
 Milford Hall Cricket Club,
 Milford, Stafford, ST17 0UL.
 Call 01785 663960

The Quiz
 Fri at 7.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

ART EXHIBITIONS

Siân Macfarlane: Talk
 Sat at 2pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall,
 WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Soldier Stories
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun,
 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am -
 5pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art
 Gallery, B3 3DH.
 Call 0121 303 1966

Pop in Space
 Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am
 - 5pm, Sat, Sun at 10.30am -
 4.30pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
 WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

The Liberated Quilt
 Tue, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Wed at
 10am - 7pm, Fri at 10am - 1pm,
 Sat at 11am - 4pm, Free
 Bilston Craft Gallery, WV14 7LU.
 Call 01902 552507

Georgian Enamels
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at
 11am - 5pm, Free
 Bantock House,
 Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.
 Call 01902 552195

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Back to the 60s at miniskirt musical



More than 40 hits from pop's greatest decade feature in Dreamboats and Miniskirts at the Grand next week

A SENSATIONAL 1960s jukebox musical will get audiences bopping in their seats at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when Dreamboats and Miniskirts swings onto the stage on Tuesday for a five-day run.

The sequel to hit musical Dreamboats and Petticoats, it is again written by the top TV team of Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, duo behind Birds of a Feather, Shine on Harvey Moon and Goodnight Sweetheart.

Dreamboats and Petticoats became a musical phenomenon, playing to more than two million people across the UK. The musical was inspired by Universal's multi-million selling albums of vintage hits which now boasts seven double compilation albums and a myriad of special releases.

The creative team reunite to update the story to 1963, as the success of bands like The Beatles inspire Bobby and Laura to have one more shot at

stardom as we catch up with their mates, as teenagers turn into adults with new roles and responsibilities.

But the story is secondary to more than 40 great pop songs from the era delivered by a beehived and Mod-clothed cast of all-action performers.

Bill Kenwright's touring production has been getting enthusiastic reviews across the country and now it's Wolverhampton's turn to Hippy Hippy Shake with the best of them.



Frozen star is hottest ticket

BROADWAY and movie star Idina Menzel opens her UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday and there will not be a spare seat in the house for the Tony Award-winner's eagerly anticipated concert.

She was most recently heard as Elsa in Disney's global box office smash Frozen, in which she sings the film's Oscar-winning song Let It Go (the pop version was sung by Demi Lovato).

Menzel earned her first Tony nomination in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical Rent and then won the award for her performance as Elphaba in Wicked, a role she played in New York, London and San Francisco.

The Long Island-raised singer's other best known roles include Rachel Berry's mother, Shelby Corcoran, on the hit television show Glee as well as starring opposite Susan Sarandon and Amy Adams in Disney's Enchanted. This year she presented the Oscar for Best Original Song and will be starring in the musical If/Then in America.

"Most of the songs are from shows that I've been in, and then other music I want to explore," Menzel says of her tour. "Although Let It Go is my only hit radio song in my career, I sort of consider songs like Defying Gravity and songs from Rent to be my other hit songs. My barometer for that is if I can put the microphone out and the audience can sing every word, then that's my hit song."

Her recent albums have included the original Broadway cast recording of If/Then and Live: Barefoot at the Symphony.

Face to face with Bowie's producer

ROCK producer Tony Visconti is coming to Birmingham with special guests to perform one of the favourite albums he worked on, David Bowie's The Man Who Sold The World.

The title song, a hit for Lulu and later Nirvana, came from Bowie's third studio album and its band was the nucleus of Ziggy Stardust's Spiders From Mars.

The American, who also produced artists ranging from T Rex to Morrissey and Kaiser Chiefs, says it is long overdue that the album be performed in full live. He is enlisting Marc Almond, Heaven 17's Glen Gregory and original Spiders drummer Woody Woodmansey for the gig at the O2 Academy on June 29.

European festival transforms The Rep

BE Festival, Birmingham's festival of European theatre, returns to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from June 23 to 27.

The festival's unique format gives the audience the opportunity to see four 30-minute long shows each night and eat dinner with performers in the interval.

This year's Be Festival spans five days and features 20 shows from nine European countries. The festival turns Birmingham Rep back-to-front, transforming the theatre's vast new workshop into a hub complete with lounge, bar and exhibition space.

Passes are available with or without dinner. See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk for details.

Canine eyes up the main trance

BILSTON rock and blues venue The Robin 2 hosts one of its strangest shows on Monday when Princess the Hypnodog, the mesmerising mutt who apparently hypnotised Simon Cowell on Britain's Got Talent, has a comedy hypnotism show with handler Krystyna Lennon.

Tickets cost £16 on the door, or a pound less in advance from the Mount Pleasant venue, to see the canine Svengali. Go to www.the-robin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Other acts coming up include ska veterans Bad Manners with Max Splodge on Saturday and Canadian blues singer Layla Zoe and her band on Sunday.



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Very popular – have a try at the cocktail-making bar



Enjoy a selection of different dishes

No whining over this bar, it's the One for good food and friendly service

IT'S very rare that I am not rushing from work to review a show or concert in Birmingham.

So when one popped up on a Sunday evening I decided to make a day of it. A bit of retail therapy followed by a bit of wine therapy – perfect.

As the show was at the Symphony Hall the obvious eating choice was BrindleyPlace and it just so happened that a week or two earlier I had had an email on the Discover Wine Campaign at All Bar One, just over the canal bridge. As a wine lover this was just too good an opportunity to miss.

This stylish city bar, which recently had a major refurb, specialises in cocktails and runs its own cocktail-making classes – but more on that later. There is a large outside eating area but we opted for inside and were shown to our corner seat by a very friendly

By Sue Attwater

and helpful waiter called Bob. Menus already on the table, we very quickly decided to go for the 'small plates'. They advise five between two at a total cost of £26 – very good value at just £13 each for a share of actually very generous taster portions.

We opted for beetroot cured salmon gravadlax with goat's curd and apple, coriander, za'atar spice mix and tzatziki, slow cooked pork with creamed potato, apple and vanilla ketchup and pork crackling, Szechuan-coated crispy calamari, with red chilli and served with wasabi dip, ginger teriyaki chicken skewers with pickled vegetables and sesame seeds and wild Patagonian prawns in garlic, chilli and lemon with grilled rosemary focaccia.

All very tasty and very well presented. The bar holds regular events including a

wine of the month and although the cocktails prove very popular with the young as we are now, how can I put it, a little more mature we do like a drop of wine.

Luckily for us the wine event was still running. It was due to end the middle of June but look out for it if it comes around again. It is definitely worth it.

Experience

So before our food arrived we were joined by team leader Shaun who took us through the different wines, and there were a lot of them! We were shown how to pick up the aromas and which wines went best with each of the dishes. Although young, Shaun has a wealth of experience in this field, some of it picked up on cruise ships.

We started with the white wines and after a while I was managing to pick out the different aromas but still had no idea of the

region. Then we moved on to our favourite, red wine, by which time I must admit I was probably getting a little bit tipsy.

Shaun advised to drink water between the different samples to clear our palate so at least the wine was being 'watered down' – after all I did have a show to review!

On to dessert and as I have a very sweet tooth I went for the chocolate, orange and mascarpone mousse cake. Delicious, the lobster count was on the menu but I didn't even bother checking. My husband went for lemon torte with raspberry sorbet.

Cocktails are very popular with the young and cocktail making classes are a big attraction. They cost £20 and include three cocktails. All Bar One is a perfect place to eat out or pop for a drink after work. And if you are going to the ICC, Barclaycard Arena the one at Waters Edge, BrindleyPlace is perfectly placed.

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www.oldburyrep.org

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CHOICE



Reggie Yates

Prized Apart (BBC1, 7pm)
Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. The remaining nine couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize, as one member of each couple takes part in a series of challenges on location in Morocco, while the other is based at Farnborough airport, ready to answer a series of questions to potentially save their partner, should they find themselves in the bottom three and in danger of being eliminated. In this show, the challenges include a race through the sand dunes of the Sahara Desert, with the lowest-ranked three contestants flown back to their studio partners in the UK.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Live coverage of the semi-finals on the sixth day at the Queen's Club in London. **4.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.30** Formula 1 – Austrian Grand Prix: Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the battle for pole position from the eighth round of the season at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. **6.45** BBC News. **6.55** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Prized Apart**. Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. The remaining nine couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize. **8.05** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins**. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.55** **Casualty**. Dixie tries to help a mother, Suzy, who is grieving for her baby, but soon suspects that she has abducted another one to replace her own. Hospital drama, starring Jane Hazlegrove. **9.45** **The John Bishop Show**. The comedian presents another evening of entertainment, recorded at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including music by the Vaccines and the Overtones, stand-up routines by Jimeoin, Tanyalee Davis and Hal Crutenden, and a performance by Spark Fire Dance. Plus, Vikki Stone sings an ode to Professor Brian Cox. **10.30** BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.50** **Not Going Out**. Lucy decides she wants to have a baby, but is surprised to find the whole family taking a personal interest in the conception. Lee Mack, Sally Bretton and Katy Wix star. (R) **11.20** **Room 101 – Extra Storage**. Frank Skinner welcomes German comedian Henning Wehn, West End star Michael Ball and actress-presenter Caroline Quentin to discuss their pet hates. (R) **12.00** **Film**: The Rookie. (2002) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

7.55 **Film**: The Happiest Days of Your Life. (1950) Comedy, starring Alastair Sim. **9.15** Animal Park. (R) **9.45** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00** Live Abolition: European Team Championships. Day one from Central Stadium in Chobokary, Russia. **5.30** Ocean Queens: The Story of Cunard. **6.00** **Gardeners' World**. Joe Swift continues his mission to find the perfect hanging basket and Carol Klein visits one of the country's most beautiful gardens to find out why their borders work so well. (R) **6.30** **Edwardian Farm**. December arrives and the hardships of winter take their toll on Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman. As the traditional livelihood methods dry up, the men travel to the coast to embark on sea fishing, while Ruth has to look for domestic service work at a grand Edwardian stately home. (R) **7.30** **Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands**. Michelle Dockery narrates an exploration of the Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan, revealing unexpected stories of isolation, unique wildlife and unsolved mysteries. (R) **8.30** **Dad's Army**. The platoon defends headquarters in an exercise against members of the Highland Regiment. Classic episode from 1969, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **9.00** **La Traviata: Love, Death and Divas**. Amanda Vicary and Tom Service look at the story behind the opera's opening night in London in 1856, and its scandalous heroine, whose life and death were based on real-life events. **10.00** **Mock the Week**. Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R) **10.35** **Film**: Hamlet. (2008) A failed actor-turned-drama teacher directs his students in a spectacular self-written musical sequel to Shakespeare's tragedy. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan and Catherine Keener. **12.00** The Many Faces of Robbie Coltrane. (R) **1.00** **Film**: Good Hair. (2009) **2.30** Sign Zone: Watchdog. (R) **3.30** Rip Off Britain: Food. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **8.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **8.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Tipping Point. (R) **2.40** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.35** **Film**: The Lost World: Jurassic Park. (1997) Dinosaur adventure sequel, with Jeff Goldblum. **6.00** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.15** **ITV News**; Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Surreal comedy meets slapstick as Harry Hill narrates a selection of videos filmed by viewers, including a feline performance of Wuthering Heights and the International Toddler Throwing Championship. Plus, a man who speaks sea-lion and a crow that hates cashmere. (R) **7.00** **Film**: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. (2005) The adolescent wizard is unexpectedly chosen to represent Hogwarts School in a prestigious magical tournament, despite being legally too young to enter. He joins champions of three other magical academies to face deadly monsters in a series of challenges. Meanwhile, the followers of the dreaded Lord Voldemort plot to restore their master to the land of the living. Fourth instalment of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Robbie Coltrane, Ralph Fiennes, Michael Gambon, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Brendan Gleeson and Robert Pattinson. **10.00** **ITV News**; Weather. **10.10** **Film**: Raw Deal. (1986) A former FBI agent is offered reinstatement if he can infiltrate the Chicago Mob and bring a killer to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Kathryn Harrold. **12.10** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. The host takes his successful talk show stateside, where he invites American guests to air their differences. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.30** Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire. **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** **FIM** Superbike World Championship. **8.00** Royal Ascot: The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.30** Royal Ascot: Channel 4 Racing. Clare Balding and Nick Luck present live coverage of the fifth and final day of the festival, featuring races at 2.30, 3.05, 3.40, 4.20, 5.00 and 5.35. **6.00** **Couples Come Dine with Me**. Three couples from south Wales compete for the £1,000 prize, featuring a Welsh-themed evening, a series of personal revelations and a night of extravagance. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Walking Through History**. Tony Robinson embarks on expeditions through some of Britain's most historic landscapes in search of the richest stories from the nation's past. He begins with a 40-mile walk along the Derwent Valley in the Peak District, where the world's industrial revolution was born. (R) **8.00** **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages**. New series. Penelope Keith explores British villages, finding out about their traditions, and also how their way of life is being threatened, beginning with a trip to East Anglia. **9.00** **Film**: Rush. (2013) Premiere. The 1976 Formula One Championship season is dominated by a fierce rivalry between two contrasting racers, as daredevil British driver James Hunt and methodical Austrian defending champion Niki Lauda put their lives on the line to outdo each other on the track. Fact-based drama, starring Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Bruhl and Olivia Wilde. **11.25** **Film**: Basic Instinct. (1992) A hard-drinking cop investigating a murder case lets his feelings for the sultry and manipulative chief suspect cloud his judgement. Thriller, with Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas. **1.50** Royal Ascot Highlights. **2.20** Hollywoods. (R) **4.30** The Renovation Game. (R) **5.20** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.45** **Film**: Columbus: Publish or Perish. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **5.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. High Court enforcement officers Paul, Steve and Ben make a shocking discovery when they break into a home while serving an eviction notice on a single mother and her two children. (R) **7.00** **Cricket on 5**. England v New Zealand. Action from the final one-day international of the five-match series, held at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. **7.55** **5 News Weekend**. **8.00** **Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole**. Documentary following the inhabitants of the seaside village of Jaywick in Essex, where more than half of the residents are on state welfare. Tony Taylor claims £51.40 a week and does odd jobs in exchange for food, enabling his benefits money to go a bit further, while Claire has moved from east London's Canning Town in search of a better life with her fiancé Luke, their young baby and her two older children, who live with a host of pets in a two-bedroom house. (R) **9.00** **Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole**. The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits Hull, which has one of the highest unemployment rates and lowest average weekly wages in the UK. (R) **10.00** **Big Brother**. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **11.00** **Autopsy: The Last Hours of Brittany Murphy**. Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the actress in December 2009, uncovering evidence of a paranoid personality fuelled by prescription drugs. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Person of Interest. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You 7.45 Top Gear 8.45 Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. **11.00** Family Guy 1.15 Him & Her: The Wedding 3.40 Jenny Bede: AAA 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Sounds of the Sixties 7.30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2015 9.00 **Film**: King of Devil's Island (2010) **10.50** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **11.50** Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **12.50** Prince: A Purple Reign **1.50** Disco at the BBC **2.50** Sounds of the Sixties **3.20** Close
ITV2
11.05 **Film**: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **12.55** **Film**: The Perfect Man (2005) **3.00** The Hot Desk: Stereo Kicks **3.15** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.40** **Film**: Happy Feet (2006) **6.50** **Film**: She's the Man (2006) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** **Film**: The Back-up Plan (2010) **12.10** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.40** Love Island **1.35** Crazy Beaches **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.35 Inspector Morse **2.55** Lewis **4.50** **Film**: Columbus: Any Old Port in a Storm (1973) **6.55** Doc Martin **7.55** Foyle's War **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.30** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.10 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.10** Gunsmoke **1.15** **Film**: The Far Country (1954) **3.15** **Film**: The Horse Soldiers (1959) **5.45** **Film**: Fastest (2011) **8.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** **Film**: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **11.55** **Film**: The Boat That Rocked (2009) **2.30** Highway Patrol **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
1.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Made in Chelsea **4.00** **Film**: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **5.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film**: Predators (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** How I Met Your Mother **2.20** Broke Girls **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Rules of Engagement **4.20** Jane the Virgin **5.05** Suburgatory
Film4
11.00 California Man (1992) **1.00** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **3.50** The Andromeda Strain (1971) **6.25** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Kingdom of Heaven (2005) **12.45** The Bay (2012) **2.25** Bruno (2009) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Sheridan Smith

Black Work (ITV, 9pm)

New series. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer whose husband is murdered. She is expected to leave the investigation to her colleagues, but finds herself losing trust in them and goes behind their backs to track down the killer herself. However, her investigation places her and her children in jeopardy. Also starring Sharon Duce, Geraldine James, Douglas Henshall, Matthew McNulty, Kenny Doughty, Honor Kneafsey, Oliver Woolford, Andrew Knott, Ace Bhatti, Carla Henry, Lisa Dillon, Andrew Gower and Ben-Ryan Davies.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Prized Apart. (R) **2.20** Yoga: Bend it Like Britain. **2.50** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.05** Formula 1 – Austrian Grand Prix: Highlights.

6.35 BBC News.**6.50 Regional Programme.**

7.00 **Countryfile.** The team visits East Yorkshire, where Ellie Harrison helps the RSPB check seabird numbers. John Craven, Bill Bailey and Naomi Wilkinson launch this year's photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team return to Tredgar House near Newport. Among the finds are a locket that was a gift from Queen Victoria, a device used for creating tattoos, a classic car and a cigar cutter commemorating the opening of the Newport transporter bridge. Last in the series.

9.00 **Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.** Strange is determined to learn the secrets of fairy magic so he can restore Arabella. Believing madness is the key to accessing the fairy world, he seeks a way to drive himself insane. However, the Gentleman does not take kindly to the intrusion into his realm, and unleashes a terrible curse to stop him. Norrell's determination to maintain control of all magic in England costs him dearly when the government turns against him, and Vinculus offers Stephen a means to escape from the Gentleman's clutches.

10.00 BBC News.**10.20 Regional Programme.**

10.30 **Live at the Apollo.** Rich Hall hosts the stand-up show recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo, doing his own thing before introducing routines by Mark Watson and Andrew Maxwell. (R)

11.15 **My Big Beautiful Wedding Dress.** Documentary meeting Jo and Alison, best friends and owners of a boutique bridal shop in Essex that specialises in wedding dresses for plus-size women. (R)

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Greatest Gardens. **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **9.00** The Box. (R) **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** The Olympic Journey: Born Winners. (R) **12.30** Live Athletics: European Team Championships. Day two from Central Stadium in Cheboksary, Russia. **2.05** Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. Live coverage of the final at the Queen's Club in London, which was won by Grigor Dimitrov last year. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **5.35** Flog It! Claire Rawle and Michael Baggott value antiques in Longleat. (R)

6.20 **Film: The Sorcerer's Apprentice.** (2010) A wizard living secretly in modern-day New York vows to prevent his mystical enemy from taking over the city. Realising that he is unable to complete the task alone, he recruits an ordinary teenager to be his assistant, teaching him to master the magical arts. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel and Alfred Molina.

8.00 **Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure.** Ed Byrne and Dara O Briain head into Guatemala as they continue their road trip, visiting Lake Atitlan to pay their respects to Mayan deity Maximón, exploring the ancient colonial city of Antigua and scaling the nearby active volcano Pacaya. (R)

9.00 **The BBC at War.** Part two of two. Jonathan Dimbleby reveals how the BBC provided coded information to resistance groups, and tells the stories of reporters working with military units during D Day.

10.00 **Film: Blood.** (2012) Premiere. Two policemen brothers living in the shadow of their father's reputation are consumed with paranoia after committing a crime. Thriller, with Paul Bettany and Brian Cox.

11.30 **The Clare Balding Show.** World Snooker champion Ronnie O'Sullivan; Olympic heptathlon champion Denise Lewis and England bowler Graeme Swann join Clare in the sports magazine chat show. Last in the series. (R)

12.00 Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. A last-16 game (Kick-off 12.30am). **2.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.25** Hobby City. (R) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.35** Off Their Rockers Blue Badge Special. (R) **3.05** Film: Jurassic Park III. (2001) Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill, William H Macy and Tea Leoni. **4.50** Midsomer Murders. Jones infiltrates a cult to investigate a woman's disappearance, but he and Barnaby soon start digging into an old case involving the death of a couple in a boat explosion. (R)

4.55 **Regional Programme; Weather.**

7.00 **ITV News; Weather.**

7.15 **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 **Surprise Surprise.** New series. Holly Willoughby makes more dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public as the revived show returns for a fourth series. Lionel Richie surprises one of his biggest fans, two rugby fans enjoy the perfect sporting day out, and a tale of wartime romance leads to a family reunion that crosses the Atlantic.

9.00 **Black Work.** New series. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer investigating her husband's murder behind her colleagues' backs, a search that places her family in danger.

10.00 **ITV News; Weather.**

10.15 **Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.** Eight celebrities take a challenging 12-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, competing to remain in the programme and get through to the final. (R)

11.15 **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: June Brown.** The EastEnders actress chats to Piers Morgan about her life and career, including her early work in the theatre and the challenges of juggling work and her home life. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Cycling: The London Nocturne. **2015.** (R) **7.00** Volksvagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** The Simpsons. (R) **9.00** The Simpsons. (R) **9.30** Saturday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) A teenager learns he is the son of Greek god Poseidon, and finds himself in the middle of a feud between immortals. Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman.

6.40 **Channel 4 News.**

6.00 **Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild.** Kevin travels to the foothills of the Andes in Chile to meet a family of five from south London who quit the daily grind to build a new home in the shadow of an active volcano. (R)

8.00 **Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015.** New series. George Clarke presents this year's competition. The first episode features normal sheds, which include a miniature railway shed, a makeshift observatory with a retractable roof and advanced telescope, a shed that doubles as a boat and a home cinema that is also home to a collection of movie memorabilia. The judges also cast their eyes over some environmentally friendly builds, including a shed shaped like an owl, a highland bothy, a geodesic dome and a building made entirely out of mud.

9.00 **Humans.** George is assigned a new Synth whom he cannot stand. Laura feels threatened by Anita, and Fred is held captive in Hobbs' facility, which leads him to fear for the human race. Sci-fi drama, starring William Hurt, Rebecca Front and Katherine Parkinson.

10.00 **Film: I, Robot.** (2004) A detective is convinced a robot has killed his creator, even though it has been programmed never to harm humans. Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith and Bridget Moynahan.

12.15 Rude Tube. (R) **1.10** Film: Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo. (1999) **2.40** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.35** The Renovation Game. (R) **4.30** SuperScrimpers. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.20** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **8.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.05** Lazy Town. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.55** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.45** Film: Are We Done Yet? (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Ice Cube. **4.30** Film: The Hunchback of Notre Dame. (1998) Disney animation, with the voices of Tom Hulce and Demi Moore.

6.10 **Film: Monster-in-Law.** (2005) An unlikely-in-love woman thinks she has finally landed on her feet when she meets the man of her dreams. However, his meddling mother proves to be an overprotective nightmare who is adamant the would-be bride is Miss Wrong and hatches a plan to drive her away. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda.

5.55 **News Weekend.**

7.00 **Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2.** Dave Spiky and Ellie Taylor introduce one final compilation of animal antics, turning the spotlight back on to the hilarious hijinks of pets of all shapes and sizes, with resident animal behaviourist Professor Peter Neville on hand to explain the science behind the comical clips. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 **Big Brother.** Marcus Bentley narrates a round-up of highlights, including the latest round of nominations and the announcement of who is up for eviction on Friday night.

10.00 **Film: The Other Guys.** (2010) Two desk-bound incompetent cops get the chance to become heroes when they stumble across a tycoon's illegal activities. Action comedy, starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg.

12.10 Manchester's Gang Wars: Exposed. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. A last 16 game (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.05** Family Guy **12.30** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.30** Great TV Mistakes **3.00** Where Am I Sleeping Tonight? **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World **2015** – The Final **9.30** Richard Ely **10.30** Film: Iris (2011) **12.00** Glastonbury Golden Greats **1.00** Festivals Britannia **2.30** Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.45** The Hot Desk: Alesha Dixon **2.55** Film: Midsomer Murders **4.00** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **5.55** Love Island **6.55** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Film: Bachelorette (2012) **11.50** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **12.50** Love Island **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.25 Film: Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm (1973) **1.30** Wycliffe **2.35** Bertie and Elizabeth **4.40** Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00** The Little House **11.05** Film: The Human Stain (2003) **1.15** Blue Murder **2.30** Wycliffe **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.10 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.15** Pawn Stars **3.00** Film: Destry Rides Again (1939) **4.55** Film: The Far Country (1954) **7.00** Pawn Stars **9.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.40** Film: Smokin' Aces (2007) **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Film: The Addams Family (1991) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Googlebox **12.10** The Goldbergs **1.10** Tattoos After Dark **2.10** Virtually Famous MIC Takeover **2.50** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Hollywoods

Film4
11.00 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **1.00** Johnny English Reborn (2001) **3.00** Corridore (1979) **5.00** Leap Year (2010) **7.00** Driftbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Enemy at the Gates (2001) **11.40** What Happens in Vegas (2008) **1.40** Whisper of the Heart (1995) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Man for All Seasons, BBC2, 3.15pm
Henry VIII's decision to divorce Catherine of Aragon leads to a clash with the Roman Catholic Church and his own lord chancellor Sir Thomas More. To force his will, the king declares himself the supreme head of the Church of England and demands More's approval – but when he fails to get it, he puts his former adviser on trial for his life. Oscar-winning adaptation of Robert Bolt's history play, with Paul Scofield. (1966)

TUESDAY
Sparkle, BBC1, 11.50pm
A Liverpoolian travels to London and ends up landing a job in the PR business. Sleeping with his female boss gives his career a welcome boost – but things become complicated when he falls for her daughter. Meanwhile, his pub singer mother also finds romance. Comedy drama, starring Shaun Evans, Stockard Channing, Bob Hoskins and Lesley Manville. (2006)



Fallen, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

WEDNESDAY
The 19th Wife, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. The wife of a member of a polygamous cult is accused of killing her husband, leaving it up to her excommunicated son to prove her innocence. Drama, starring Chyler Leigh, Matt Czuchy and Patricia Wettig. (2010)

THURSDAY
Garage Sale Mystery II: All That Glitters, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. Bargain hunter-cum-amateur sleuth Jennifer investigates when the owner of a storage unit is murdered, hours after an auction. Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2014)

FRIDAY
Fallen, BBC1, 11.55pm
A detective investigates a series of grisly murders that mimic the handiwork of an executed serial killer. The case takes a stranger twist when he realises a bloodthirsty disembodied demon is responsible – and that it can leap from one unsuspecting host to another. Supernatural thriller, starring Denzel Washington, John Goodman, Donald Sutherland and Embeth Davidtz. (1998)

Kicking off the musical extravaganza in style

So why aren't you at Glasto this year? Perhaps you didn't fancy running the risk of getting up to your knees in mud, sharing the infamous portable toilets with 175,000 other people, or not washing properly for the best part of a week.

Or maybe you did want to go, but postponed it for another year; or were one of the unlucky thousands who just didn't manage to secure one of the prized festival tickets.

Well fear not, non-campers, the BBC is pulling out all the stops again this year to take viewers right to the heart of one of the biggest events in the global music calendar.

Presented for the first time under the BBC Music umbrella, this year audiences can hear the music and see what's exactly going on over three days at Worthy Farm in Somerset, from the big headline acts on the main stages, through to new and emerging talent.

Some of the BBC's best-known faces will deliver unparalleled coverage across TV, radio and digital platforms from six stages, including the BBC Introducing stage, starting

tonight (Friday) and continuing right through until after the final headlines finish on the Sunday evening.

It all kicks-off when The One Show's Chris Evans and Alex Jones present their usual show live from Glastonbury.

Then over on BBC Two, traditionally the home of the big headline acts, Lauren Laverne, Jo Whaley, and Mark Radcliffe, present coverage of the opening night's acts, culminating with the headline set by the Foo Fighters on the Pyramid Stage.

Greg James and Clara Amfo will be providing a younger perspective over on BBC Three, with headlines Rudimental being broadcast from the Other Stage later that night.

Throughout the weekend viewers can expect to see classic and contemporary acts on BBC Four, including Florence + The Machine and Paloma Faith.

Extended highlights of over performances from the Pyramid, Other, John Peel, West Holts and BBC Introducing stages will be available to watch on demand following the event.

As always this year's line-up has caused some debate.

He may divide opinion, but there's no denying rapper Kanye West will inject a healthy dose of the ridiculous into his headline set on the Saturday night.

Hit settlist will probably be made up of new tracks from his upcoming album SWISH, along with fan-favourites such as All of the Lights, Jesus Walks and Stronger.

Then on the Sunday, to celebrate their 50th anniversary, rock legends The Who will close Glastonbury, rounding off the weekend with famous singalongs My Generation, Pinball Wizard and Substitute.

Motown legend Lionel Richie takes pride of place on the Sunday afternoon 'Dolly Parton' slot this year, while there are also sets from established acts like Mary J Blige, Motorhead, Suede, Patti Smith, Paul Weller, The Chemical Brothers, as well as emerging talent such as Years & Years, Rae Morris, Wolf Alice, Soak, Saint Raymond, Sunset Sons and Tourist.



Florence and the Machine feature, Glastonbury 2015, Friday, BBC2, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Nigel Slater: Eating Together BBC1, 7.30pm
Nigel's tour of the flavours of Britain takes him from a classic Lancashire hotpot to three melt-in-the-mouth one-pot dishes with origins from around the world. He meets Yasmin, whose fesenjoon takes her back to her childhood in Iran, gets a lesson in Brazil's national dish feijoada from brothers Andre and Anderson, and discovers the delicate flavours of a traditional Bangladeshi korma as he joins Enam and his family to celebrate Eid. Inspired by their dishes, Nigel creates a luxurious bean hotpot bejewelled with beetroot and carrot.

The £100K House: The Final Fix BBC2, 8pm
In case you've missed both series of The House That £100k Built (it's popped up with little or no fanfare on BBC Two during the last couple of years), and the first part of this programme, the premise is simple: architectural historian Kieran Long (of Restoration Home fame) and architect Piers Taylor meet various couples who have a budget of £100k with which to construct the house of their dreams - and to date, they've witnessed some pretty amazing results. But, once the dust settled, how have the homeowners got on? Are they

still blissfully happy with their achievements? Last week, Taylor visited one batch of builders, and now he's catching up with a woman who constructed her property in the Scottish borders, as well as a couple of Devon farmers.

TUESDAY
The Bank: A Matter of Life and Debt BBC2, 9pm
Since the 2008 banking crash, the public's faith in banks is at an all-time low. Filmed over a year at the NatWest branch in Huddersfield, this series explores our tempestuous relationship with our finances and the banks we choose to help us look after them. NatWest is owned by RBS, which was bailed out by the government and is 79-per-cent owned by the taxpayer. So when their customers feel they aren't getting a fair deal, even more focus is placed on the bank. Deputy bank manager Claire is challenged to improve the branch's customer service score, but when customer Alan fumes over a missing cheque, and another, Chris, complains about the mortgage advice he's been given, this seems like an impossible task.



The £100K House: The Final Fix, Monday, BBC2, 8pm

WEDNESDAY
Don't Tell the Bride BBC1, 8pm
The Bafta-nominated series, which follows the journey of couples as the groom is put in charge of planning their upcoming weddings, moves from BBC Three to BBC One. The opening episode focuses on bride-to-be Jenni and her fiancé Andrew. Jenni is one of life's romantics, but her confidence has been

knocked by a disability caused by pregnancy. As her dutiful carer, Andrew's romantic side seems to have fallen by the wayside as everyday demands take their toll. However, with three weeks and £14,000 to work with, Andrew is now planning a fun-filled, big top-themed wedding to give them both a break from their troubled lives. Can he pull it off? And will Jennie be happy with the results?

THURSDAY
Superhospital ITV, 9pm
Channel 4 has 24 Hours in A&E, while the BBC weighs in with An Hour to Save Your Life.

Now ITV is entering the medical docusoap stakes with a new series that takes viewers behind the scenes at the Royal Derby Hospital. Its producers visited 20 institutions and plumped for this one because it's a large, modern hospital which provides a wide range of services. But cameras won't be focusing on how the place is run. Instead, it's the human stories they want to capture, those involving both staff and patients. The opening episode introduces viewers to some of those they will get to know over the next four weeks, including Jayne, a sister on the liver ward, who loves her job and is about to celebrate 40 years in nursing.

FRIDAY
The Last Leg Channel 4, 10pm
New series. Following three election specials aired earlier this spring, the award-winning show returns for a full series of irreverent satire as Adam Hills and co-hosts Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker tear into the week's main talking points. The trio offer their own unique insight into some of the most difficult and delicate issues in modern Britain, and answer that most important of questions: is it OK? As usual, they are joined by a live studio audience and a celebrity guest, which this week is actor, writer and director Stephen Merchant.

JULY		
Mon 6th	Torquay - Coppice Hotel (late availability) Excursions, Entertainment.....	5 days £220
Sat 18th	Weston Super Mare or Burnham on Sea (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 19th	RAF Fairfield Royal International Air Tattoo, a Great Day Out!.....	£50 £50 £10
Wed 22nd	Elan Valley Dams & Built Wells Midweek Special.....	£16 or 2 £30
Thurs 23rd	Bath Roman & Georgian City, Sightseeing/Shopping.....	£18 £16 £13
Sat 25th	Blackpool Pleasure Beach 6pm Rtn (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sat 25th	Weston Super Mare - Sun, Sand & Pier (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 26th	Mystery Day Out North East or West????.....	£16 or 2 £30
Mon 27th	Rhyl or Llandudno - Sand, Sea, Pier (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Wed 29th	Carvery & Stratford on Avon, Shopping, Sightseeing!.....	£20
Thurs 30th	Chatsworth House & Gardens, the Duke & Duchess of Devonshire's Home.....	£30

AUGUST		
Sat 1st	Blackpool Pleasure Beach Rtn 6.00pm (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sat 1st	Waldorf Hotel, London, 5 Star Luxury/Hotel, Tour/Afternoon Tea, 2 days.....	£135
Mon 3rd	Chester, Cheshire Oaks or Chester Zoo, excludes admission.....	£18 £16 £13
Tues 4th	Drayton Manor Park & Zoo - a Great Day Out for all the family.....	£30
Tues 4th	Highgrove House Garden Tour - a 2 hour guided tour, Shop, Restaurant.....	£47.50
Wed 5th	Snowdonia Tour Llangollen, Betws y Coed, Llanberis Pass, Llandudno.....	£20 £18 £16
Thurs 6th	Liverpool City of Culture Sightseeing/Shopping/Caverns (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Fri 7th	The Mumbles the Gower Coast & Swansea.....	£22 £20 £14
Sat 8th	Weston Super Mare, Sun, Sand & Pier (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sat 8th	Llandudno - Sun, Sand & Pier, Victorian Town (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 9th	Blackpool or Free Airshow - Red Arrows, Vulcan etc. (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 9th	Buckingham Palace & the State Rooms "A Royal Welcome".....	£47 £45 £35
Tues 11th	Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh & Bourton on the Water.....	£12 or 2 £20
Wed 12th	Mystery Meal Tour. Day out with a stop for lunch.....	£20
Thurs 13th	Harry Potter Tour - The Hogwarts Express has arrived.....	£52 £50 £48
Fri 14th	Shrewsbury Flower Show - more than just a Flower Show!.....	£35 £33 £15
Sat 15th	Weston Super Mare - Sun, Sand & Pier (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sat 15th	Blackpool Pleasure Beach 6pm Rtn (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 16th	Heartbeat Country, Aidenfield & Whitley Tour.....	£26 £25 £20
Mon 17th	Chesterfield Market & Matlock Bath£16 or 2.....	£30
Tues 18th	Clarks Village & Weston Super Mare (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Wed 19th	Weymouth Carnival, Aerial Displays, Carnival Parade.....	£22 £20 £16
Thurs 20th	Llangollen, Horseshoe Pass & City of Chester Midweek Special.....	£16
Sat 22nd	London Sightseeing, Theatre, Shopping - a Great Day for all.....	£20 £18 £15

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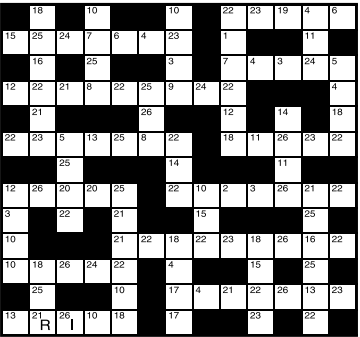
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Sat 22nd	Southport Funfair, Victorian Town & Flower Show - admission not included.....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 23rd	Cardiff Harbour Festival Sightseeing, Markets, Live Entertainment.....	£16 or 2 £30
Sun 23rd	Coronation Street the Tour, behind the scenes of the famous cobbled street.....	£37
Tues 25th	West Midlands Safari Park, includes Tour & Admission.....	£20 £18 £17
Wed 26th	Nottingham River Cruise 3hr Cruise & 3 Course Roast Dinner.....	£35
Sat 29th	Barry Island, Seaside Town & Home to TV Series "Gavin & Stacey"!.....	£18 £16 £13
Sat 29th	Weston Super Mare or Burnham on Sea (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 30th	Mystery Day Out North East or West????.....	£16 or 2 £30
Mon 31st	Weston Bank Holiday - Sun, Sand, Pier (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
SEPTEMBER		
Tues 1st	Llangollen Market Day & Horse drawn Canal Cruise.....	£25
Wed 2nd	Mystery Meal Tour. Day Out with a stop for lunch.....	£20
Sat 5th	Blackpool Illuminations, Back to School Special Tour - Lights 7.45pm.....	£16 or 2 £30
Sat 5th	Cardiff Castle, Sightseeing & Shopping, Wales' largest city.....	£16 or 2 £30
Mon 7th	Bakewell Market - Home of the Famous Bakewell Tart.....	£16 or 2 £30
Wed 9th	Hereford via Malvern Hills & Hop Pocket Craft Centre.....	£12 or 2 £20
Sat 12th	Portmeirion Guided Tour & Woodland Land Train, Village Shops & Cafes.....	£30
Sat 12th	Wellsbourne Market & Stratford Grab a Bargain!.....	£12 or 2 £20
Sun 13th	Blackpool Illuminations Tour Lights 7.45pm (f/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Tues 15th	Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh & Bourton on the Water.....	£12 or 2 £20
Sun 27th	Malvern Autumn Show Crafts, Stalls, Plants, Animals, Classic Vehicles etc.....	£30
OCTOBER		
Sun 4th	Harry Potter Tour - The Hogwarts Express has arrived!.....	£52 £50 £48
Sun 25th	Coronation Street the Tour, behind the scenes of the famous cobbled street.....	£37
Sun 25th	Waldorf Hotel London 5 Star Luxury/Hotel Tour/Afternoon Tea,.....	2 days £135
Fri 30th	Blackpool Illuminations Carn Brae Hotel, Entertainment, H/B,.....	2 days £79
NOVEMBER		
Sat 7th	Mystery Weekend Turkey & Tinsel (now booking for 2nd coach).....	2 days £79
DECEMBER		
Thurs 10th	Thursford Christmas Spectacular, 3 Star Hotel, Excursions, 3 days.....	£209

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
G	Q	X	F	W	I	D	L	U	J	N	C	K
Y	M	P	V	O	T	E	H	R	A	Z	S	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

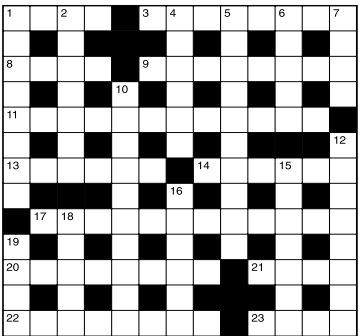
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Our lot (4)
- Serving men and women operate from behind it (4-4)
- Get carried away (4)
- Don't allow to come out (8)
- Just one instance of an infectious disease? (8,4)
- Approaching the age of rebellion? (6)
- On average, one child is a clergyman (6)
- From which to draw money for the meat? (5,7)
- Countrymen give vegetables to workers (8)
- Kind of gun having catches reversed (4)
- I'd turn a sickly colour and refuse permission (8)
- You might say it when offering a gift or present (4)

Down

- Skin specialists (8)
- It is very boring and is due to be altered (7)
- Morning spent being entertained (6)
- Hope engendered by the will? (10)
- Sadie gets wrong thoughts (5)
- Some conversed in Gaelic (4)
- Service no longer used by gunners (10)
- Scent in a new form, for example (8)
- Dash off for coal (7)
- One who has benefitted from America's troubles (6)
- Love slap up jewelry (5)
- Copied some cheap editions (4)



Quick Clues:

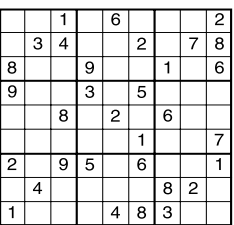
Across

- Properly (4)
- Progressed (8)
- Despatch (4)
- Scholarly (8)
- Preliminary (12)
- Get away (6)
- Battled (6)
- New birth (12)
- Not eatable (8)
- Fete (4)
- Blow up (8)
- A metal (4)

Down

- Scorned (8)
- Madman (7)
- Diversions (6)
- Extra (10)
- Singers (5)
- Nightfall (4)
- Finishing (10)
- Model (8)
- Wry face (7)
- Little ball (6)
- Expel (5)
- Untamed (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	7	6	5	9	2	1	8
8	1	5	3	2	4	9	7	5
9	2	5	8	7	1	4	3	6
7	9	2	4	3	8	5	6	1
1	6	3	2	9	5	7	4	8
4	5	7	1	6	8	9	2	3
6	3	9	5	8	7	1	2	4
5	7	4	1	6	2	3	8	9
2	8	1	9	4	3	6	5	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 High-pitched; 9 Adamant; 10 Idiot; 11 Tress; 12 Chequer; 13 Reform; 15 Accent; 18 Incessant; 20 Urged; 22 Chide; 23 Outrage; 24 Intemperate. Down: 2 Image; 3 Hoarser; 4 Intact; 5 Clive; 6 Epicure; 7 Masterpiece; 8 Star-studded; 14 Fiction; 16 Counter; 17 Recoup; 19 Niece; 21 Graft. QUICK - Across: 1 Appropriate; 9 Grapple; 10 Aware; 11 Out; 12 Sleuth; 13 Impost; 15 Astral; 18 Ignoble; 20 Brass; 22 Union; 23 Trivial; 24 Penetrating. Down: 2 Plant; 3 Repress; 4 Please; 5 Inane; 6 Traitor; 7 Ignominious; 8 Senselessly; 14 Pen-sive; 16 Subsid; 17 Better; 19 Binge; 21 Align.

Thinking space

Quiz

- In the novel Gulliver's Travels what was Gulliver's christian name?
- In which year did Castro seize power in Cuba?
- With which art form do you associate Louis Daguerre?
- Of which country was King Zog monarch?
- Which Oscar-winning actor was born Reginald Truscott-Jones?
- What is the 49th state of the United States of America?
- Which year saw the birth of Isaac Newton and the death of Galileo?
- When did the League of Nations come into being?
- In which country is the mountain Aconcagua?
- What does the musical term andante mean?

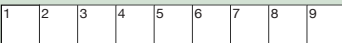
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Jerry Lewis; 2 Mahatma Gandhi; 3 W.B. Yeats; 4 A storm; 5 Trees; 6 1872; 7 Mikhail Gorbachev; 8 The Music Man; 9 Trombone; 10 Santiago. Niner: COLUMBINE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

692 gives a cereal grass,
48237 gives another cereal grass,
6512 gives a flower.



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BEARWOOD

£300,000



HIGH STREET, QUINTON

DELIGHTFUL home in EXCELLENT condition. 2 reception rooms leading to kitchen & BREAKFAST room. Master bedroom with terrace area. 2 further DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED luxury bathroom. Cottage style garden with private aspect. Gas central heating & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: D Ref: D1637

QUINTON

£184,950



WHITE ROAD, QUINTON

GOOD SIZE family home close to Hagley Rd West. DRIVEWAY to front for several vehicles. REFITTED kitchen & 2 reception rooms. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms, bathroom & WC. Extensive rear garden. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1635

QUINTON

£185,000



GLYN FARM ROAD, QUINTON

WELL PRESENTED home with newly built DRIVEWAY for 2 cars to front. 23ft lounge diner leading to UPVC conservatory. REFITTED kitchen with fitted appliances. REFITTED shower room & 3 bedrooms. SOUTH facing rear garden with access. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1634

QUINTON

£169,950



PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

Deceptively SPACIOUS, well presented END TERRACE, most CONVENIENT for BEARWOOD TOWN CENTRE AND LIGHTWOODS PARK, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, 2DOUBLE BEDROOMS, and 2 RECEPTION ROOMS. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD

£149,950



MERTON CLOSE, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED home with REFITTED 12ft breakfast kitchen. 21ft lounge diner with rear views. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom with white suite. GARAGE & driveway. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

BEARWOOD

£110,000



CLIFTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED home. Having gas radiator heating and double glazing. Requiring internal inspection and comprising of 2 reception rooms & FITTED kitchen. SUPERB d/s bathroom. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms. Pleasant low maintenance rear garden .EPC E

BEARWOOD

£109,950



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HRH The Prince of Wales's Gardens at Highgrove and the Cotswolds

Two days departing September 27

Pick of the week



PRICE FROM £149

Join this garden getaway for an amazing opportunity to see the private gardens of their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

The Prince of Wales has spent thirty years transforming the grounds around Highgrove into some of the most inspired and innovative gardens in the UK.

At Highgrove a tour of the gardens is included, this is led by one of the dedicated garden guides and lasts around two hours covering a distance of approximately two miles. What gives these private gardens their added charm is Prince Charles' involvement and commitment to them, from physically gardening the flowers and plants himself to implementing organic farming and gardening techniques.

The gardens show off a variety of pictureque scenery for all types of garden lovers to enjoy. See the perfectly arranged rows of flower beds and sculpted plants, along with the charming wildlife of Highgrove Meadow.

Enjoy the olde-world charm on the tour of the Cotswolds, which visits two locations. Stow-on-the-Wold has a market square in the centre surrounded by elegant cotswold stone houses and is well-known for its fine antique shops, art galleries and crafts. While the town of Bourton-on-the-Water has elegant bridges crossing the River Windrush, along with quaint shops, cafes and attractions.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Tour of the gardens at Highgrove
- Tour of the Cotswolds with visits to Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Battle of Britain Anniversary Air Show at Duxford

Two days departing September 19



PRICE FROM £159

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Imperial War Museum Duxford for the Battle of Britain Anniversary Air Show
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Saturday Night Theatre by rail

Two days departures most weekends



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Elvis Exhibition at The O2 London

Two days departing August 22



PRICE FROM £115

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Ticket to the Elvis exhibition at the O2
- Free time in central London
- Visit to Greenwich
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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The Railway Children at York Railway Museum

Three days departing August 14



PRICE FROM £189

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Ticket for the performance of The Railway Children at York Railway Museum (upgrade offered)
- Visit to the National Media Museum, Bradford
- Journey on Keighley & Worth Valley Steam Railway
- Free time in York and Haworth
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing September 18



PRICE FROM £219

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Lake cruise to Bellagio
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Two days departing September 13



PRICE FROM £199

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Tour manager escort to The Ritz
- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Visit to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne bar, St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament and the London Eye

Four days departing Aug 14 and Sept 18



PRICE FROM £279

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace
- Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Flight on the London Eye
- Visits to Royal Windsor and Henley-on-Thames
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in London

Two days departing December 22



PRICE FROM £195

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Ticket (face value £40) for André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in concert at SSE Wembley Arena (upgrades offered)
- Return coach transfers from the hotel to Wembley
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Lake Como, St Moritz and the Bernina Express

Eight days various departure dates 2015/16



PRICE FROM £829

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Normandy by Eurostar

Five days various departure dates 2015/16



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 - Visits to the Bayeux Tapestry, Benedictine Palace and the port of Honfleur
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 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
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The Amalfi Coast

Eight days
Selected departures September and October



PRICE FROM £779

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- Full day visit to Paestum and Salerno
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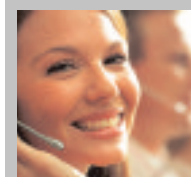
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Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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5dr hatch, Reg NA11 PGO, 18,000 miles, excellent condition, black, 17 inch alloys, air con, front and rear park sensors, CD radio, MoT 2016, 60mpg, £30 road tax, £7,995 ovno. 07437 329038.

VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 PETROL
24,000 miles, 3dr hatchback, 1st reg 02.11.2012, 1 lady owner from new, metallic black, alloy wheels and spoiler, excellent condition, £6,950 ono. 07866 750420.

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FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 04 reg. MoT Apr 16, reliable and nippy, bargain for quick sale £495. 07804 652220.

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£850.
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MERCEDES C220 CDI classic auto estate, 2000, good condition, MoT, £850. 01384 352668 or 07811 170564.

PEUGEOT 307 2006, 62k miles, blue, alloys, CD, EVW, MoT D cat £1,100 07809 233435

PEUGEOT 406 GTX Estate, W reg, 11 months MoT, blue, excellent runner, smart car. Bargain. £950. 01902 341611.

ROVER 100 ASCOT 1.2SE, 1997, Aqua blue, excellent runner and body, slight oil leak, 6 months MoT, £250 no offers. 07967 360082.

STREET KA 55 plate, 1.6, 68,000 miles, SH, MoT March 2016, very good condition, £1,300.
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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 26 Rosemary Road Hayley Green Halesowen B63 1DN, who died on 05/04/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 28/08/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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general

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Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top price ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
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Big future for new Captur

By Graham Breeze

Renault's track record in the small car sector is up there with the best so it's little wonder that the new Captur is making waves in the supermini crossover market.

It's the company's first foray into the sector with chic looks, plenty of versatility, is fun to drive and well kitted-out for life on the move.

Captur sets itself apart from the pack with muscular bodywork, built on the same underpinnings as the highly successful Clio but with a longer platform, a more spacious cabin, extra load space and wider tracks to ensure the looks are matched by handling performance.

Captur is available in the UK in four trims,



starting with the entry level Expression+ that includes 16inch alloy wheels, cruise control, manual air conditioning, Renault's hands-free key card with push button start, front fog lights, body coloured bumpers, Electronic Stability Control and Traction Control, electric windows front and rear and electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors. The entry model also gets Hill Start Assist (HSA), trip computer and Renault's ECO system for maximising fuel and emissions efficiency.

The Dynamique Nav come with Renault's integrated, tablet-style seven-inch touchscreen display. As well as the Navteq Nav'n'Go satellite navigation system, it enables access to on-board connectivity and a growing range of apps for information, entertainment and easier journeys.

A four-speaker Arkamys® audio system, Bluetooth and a USB port are included in the specification, along with 17-inch alloys and a cornering function in the front fog lights.

Seat covers that can be unzipped and machine washed at home are also featured, another of Captur's useful innovations that families are sure to appreciate.

On test was the next model in the range, Dynamique S Nav, which also has rear parking sensors, a folding function on door mirrors and extra-tinted rear window and tailgate glass and hitting the road at £18,495. Options fitted included metallic paint, heated front seats, European mapping, Tom-Tom navigation, interior style pack, R-Link multimedia system and rear parking camera pushed the price up to £19,195.

The dCi90 had a top speed of 106mph and 0-62mph in 13.1seconds but more importantly produced combined fuel figures of



.....
'Chic looks, plenty of versatility, is fun to drive and well kitted-out for life on the move.'

76.4mpg – Renault claim 83.1mpg on the extra urban cycle and just 95g/km of emissions.

Inside there's ample room for five passengers and the 60/40 split rear bench can be slid forwards or backwards or folded flat. The boot is big enough too, offering a variable boot floor and 455 litres of space, easily passing the golf club test.

On the road there's very little engine or wind noise, though the suspension is a lit-

tle noisy when put to the test. You get six airbags, stability control, emergency brake assist and hill-start assist as standard on the entire range and the Captur achieved a five-star Euro NCAP crash test rating. There are deadlocks and a Thatcham approved immobiliser.

A week behind the wheel was long enough to suggest that this model has a big future in the UK where the supermini crossover sector continues to grow.

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Swift SZ3 official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 64.2 (4.4), combined from 56.5 (5.0). Official CO2 emissions 116g/km.

Fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. 0% APR representative on Suzuki Personal Contract Purchase. Maximum 43 month term. Terms and Conditions apply. Offer available on registrations of Suzuki Swift SZ3 between 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015, subject to availability. Offer excludes 5dr SZ3 4x4. This finance offer is at a rate better than that of High Street lenders. The offer above is available from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. Finance is provided, subject to status by Suzuki Financial Services Ltd. Applicants must be 18 years or over and UK resident (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Financial Services Ltd reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. Suzuki Financial Services Ltd, part of Lloyds Banking Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Suzuki Financial Services.

Lotus Evora even better

By Anthony Martyn

Lotus Cars has announced the prices of the new Evora 400. The latest supercar from Lotus combines high performance with the legendary Lotus benchmark handling and is lighter, more efficient and dynamically better than ever, providing a purer driving experience.

UK prices will start from £72,000. For this price the car has a high level of standard specification including 370 mm composite two piece brake discs from AP Racing, limited slip differential, automatic air-conditioning and infotainment system including satellite navigation. In addition to this, the options

list includes automatic transmission at £2,000, Alcantara or Leather trim upgrades at £2,500 and metallic paint at £900.

A Black Pac" option, at £1,250, provides a distinctive look, with selected exterior panels including the roof, sills and centre section of the three-element rear wing in gloss black and a dark headlining in the interior. Lightweight forged alloy wheels can be fitted for £2,000 and cruise control and yellow or black brake callipers priced at £300 each.

Jean-Marc Gales, CEO, Group Lotus plc states: "We know that the Lotus Evora 400 can deliver the performance of a car costing significantly more and we are conscious that the pricing is highly competitive. Yet, the greatest merit which no other sports car or supercar can deliver is a peerless Lotus driving experience."

"The Evora 400 is the fastest road-going Lotus that we have ever produced. It deliv-



'The new Lotus Evora 400 laps the Lotus test track at Hethel six seconds faster than the previous Evora S.'

ers supercar looks allied to supercar performance and our global dealer network of 179 dealers which will grow to 200 by the end of the year is excited to be able to deliver this high performing benchmark handling supercar to the ever growing customer waiting list."

The new Lotus Evora 400 laps the Lotus test track at Hethel six seconds faster than the previous Evora S in a time of 1 minute 32 seconds. Combining high performance with the legendary Lotus benchmark handling, it is faster and dynamically more capable than the previous Lotus Evora lead-

ing to greater agility and a more involving drive.

Maximum speed is 186 mph (300 km/h) and acceleration 0-60 mph is just 4.1 seconds (0-100 km/h in 4.2 seconds). Over two thirds of the Lotus Evora 400 is new, including its supercharged and charge-cooled mid-mounted 3.5-litre V6 engine producing 400 horsepower and 410 Nm of torque.

A new aluminium chassis incorporates a new interior and the lightweight composite body has changed significantly both front and rear.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Corsa 5 Door Hatchback 1.2i 90PS Excite with 16" wheels, M5: Urban: 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban: 62.8 (4.5), Combined: 53.3 (5.3). CO₂ emissions: 124g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Corsa 5 Door Hatchback 1.0i 90PS SE Turbo Stop/Start ecoFLEX with 16" wheels, M6: Urban: 51.4 (5.5), Extra-urban: 72.4 (3.9), Combined: 62.8 (4.5). CO₂ emissions: 106g/km. Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 30th June 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. *Offer subject to availability at participating Retailers only. Personal Contract Purchase. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance. PO Box 6666, Cardiff. CF15 7YT. 24-36 month term available. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle. ii) Return the vehicle. or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions.

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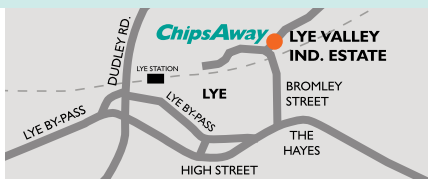
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Introducing new versatile Peugeot Partner Tepee

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Now it's even better than ever, with a fresh exterior design. It also features the latest Euro 6 engines, a range of specification upgrades and desirable new features. Lower CO2 emissions and improved fuel economy also mean even lower running costs. Key to the Peugeot Partner Te-

pee's appeal is its generous interior space and exceptional practicality. Multiple configurations mean people, cargo or both can be carried with ease. Children can be dropped off at school Monday to Friday then bikes can be shipped to the countryside at the weekend.



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Attractive newcomer setting new standards

By James Parker

ŠKODA is once again making its mark with the new ŠKODA Superb. Just months after the debut of the hatchback, comes the new ŠKODA Superb Estate. Based on innovative MQB technology, this attractive newcomer sets new standards in its segment in terms of space, comfort, safety and connectivity. The new ŠKODA Superb Estate has the largest interior space and luggage compartment in its class. The total boot volume is nearly 2,000 litres. At the same time, the new and expressive ŠKODA design transforms the new-generation model into a stylish estate with dynamic elegance.

"With the new ŠKODA Superb Estate, we have further developed the existing strengths of the Superb and once again set a benchmark. With its expressive, dynamic design, we are emphasising and complementing ŠKODA's expertise in the estate segment," said Dr Frank Welsch, ŠKODA board member for technical development. "The combination of aesthetics, top-of-the range technology and the highest practical benefits makes the new Superb Estate an outstanding vehicle within its segment. With the new flagship, we will attract new customers to our brand," said Welsch.

Worldwide

ŠKODA has offered an estate version of its top model, the ŠKODA Superb, since 2009. To date, ŠKODA has delivered more than 200,000 ŠKODA Superb Estate models to customers worldwide. This represents 35 per cent of all ŠKODA Superbs sold since 2009.

The new ŠKODA Superb Estate offers the best interior space in its segment. It is based on MQB technology, with a wheelbase that has been extended by 80mm to 2,841mm. The track width has increased to 1,584mm at the front and to 1,572mm at the rear. The result: even more interior space. In the latest model, driver and passenger have 39mm more elbow room than before.

Headroom in the front is 995mm and 1,001mm in the rear – more than in any other model in the segment. Rear knee-room is 157mm – around twice as much as the next-best competitor. Elbow room in the rear has been increased by 70mm.

Impressive

The boot volume also sets a new benchmark: 660 litres, representing an increase of 27 litres compared to the previous model. When the back seats are folded down, the boot volume reaches an impressive 1,950 litres.

The design of the new ŠKODA Superb Estate makes a powerful statement. The design is more passionate, modern and emotionally charged than ever before.

The use of MQB technology also plays a central role when it comes to styling: the longer wheelbase, the shortened front overhang as well as the widened track provide balanced proportions and create the car's extremely dynamic and sporty impression.

In combination with increased vehicle length, a long wheelbase, shortened front overhang, a sweeping roof line and a steeply angled rear window, the silhouette evolves as a stylistically confident, perfect entity. The front and rear are expressive and unmistakably ŠKODA.

The new ŠKODA Superb Estate comes with a veritable armada of new assistance systems for increased safety, eco-friendliness and comfort. Like the Superb hatchback, the new Superb Estate also features Dynamic Chassis Control (DCC).

Thanks to the new EU6 engines, the latest edition is more powerful and at the same time up to 30 per cent more efficient than its predecessor.

Connectivity reaches a new level of quality: the latest generation of infotainment systems automatically connects to all standard smartphones via SmartLink (MirrorLink™, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto technology). The optional high-speed internet connection turns the new Superb Estate into a ŠKODA hotspot on wheels.

In September, the new ŠKODA Superb Estate will make its motor show debut at the 66th International Motor Show (IAA) in Frankfurt, Germany.

The new model will be launched into the first markets in the same month, while UK ŠKODA retailers will start taking orders from June.



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New Volvo XC90 offers a serious challenge

By Ian Donaldson

When the first XC90 appeared in the UK back in 2002 some potential buyers admired this trendsetting new SUV in the showroom, before telling Volvo dealers 'it's not expensive enough'.

Which shows there are always people with more money than sense. The company bonus culture was responsible and Volvo had never experienced anything like it.

How did the sensible Swedes react? They quickly developed a UK-only version with all the bells and whistles on board, at a price that over-compensated company buyers thought let everyone know they could afford one – easily.

No such problem with the all new XC90, built high and handsome in a gently understated way and priced from £47,750 to £63,705. Nobody would describe that as underpricing, but do you get what you pay for?

The short answer is yes; buyers who head for the XC90 at the bottom of the price ladder will not only be buying by far the expected most popular version, but they'll end up with a car that comes well enough equipped to need little else adding.

That's rather rare in a part of the market where car makers know there is a large fortune to be made from the options' list. More of that later.

Let's look at the newcomer in more detail. It is that genuinely rare machine – a vehicle new from tip to stern, with new engines.

The whole thing must have cost Volvo's Chinese owners a large fortune to design and develop.

Just as well it was worth it.

Built in Sweden, it radiates subtle Nordic charm in a way that a rival like BMW's X5 would hardly comprehend. Elegant good taste emanates from everything, taking in a bold new grille and body lines deliberately kept simple.

Quality

Inside, the good taste continues, beautiful build quality obvious everywhere and a mere eight buttons indicating that all the other controls, for things like sound system, heating and ventilation and the satellite navigation have been loaded onto a big, clear touchscreen.

Every XC90 destined for the UK, for the moment at least, will have all-wheel drive, automatic transmission and seven seats, with enough room in row three for two adults up to 5ft 7in tall. All seven seats have thinner than usual seat backs, without sacrificing any of the long-distance comfort long associated with Volvo, and helping free up useful extra leg room.

Calling the least expensive Momentum level 'basic' does the car much less than justice, as it comes with all of the above, as well as a tailgate that opens with a waggle of a foot below the rear bumper, a multiple-adjustable and electrically-powered driver's seat and leather trim.

And don't forget a 10-speaker sound system and big, 19in alloy wheels too. So, miles away from basic in anyone's language.

Pay more and there are things like bigger wheels and added styling flourishes, but the entry level will suit most people just fine.

So will the new diesel engine, that pulls quietly and has enough pep to push this big car along at a satisfying lick, recording a reasonable 34mpg in the process on some demanding North Yorkshire roads.

Rather quicker still and dearer (from £53,745 for an Inscription model) is a petrol engine with 320 horsepower and the ability to explore licence losing speeds very easily, recording an indifferent 26mpg in the process.

They won't sell a lot of those.

The diesel is a different matter. Here is a very serious new contender if you want a big SUV in your life.



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Fox is fairly confident Benteke will stay at Villa

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Tom Fox is 'fairly certain' Christian Benteke will stay at Villa after confirming the striker will be offered a new contract.

The Belgium hitman's future is the subject of fervent speculation, with boss Tim Sherwood having revealed a release clause of £32.5million in the 24-year-old's current deal, which has two years left to run.

Benteke's agent Eric Kismet has claimed the striker wants to play for a club who have qualified for Europe next season but Fox is hopeful Villa can stave off the suitors and keep a player who scored 12 goals in his final 13 games of the campaign.

"We are obviously going to offer him (Benteke) a new contract in the summer," said Fox. "He's a fantastic player and one of the top strikers in the Premier League and I think he is someone who is recognised around the world as one of the top strikers."

"His goals in the second half of the season were fundamental to us staying up."

"He has got a good relationship with everyone at the club. I know him and Tim have a great working relationship, so our hope is we can keep him. I haven't had any conversations with him."

"I know he's got two years left on his deal as a starting point, so I am fairly certain we can have him back next year if we want."

Fox hopes Benteke, who is currently away on international duty with Belgium, will follow the example of Villa captain Fabian Delph who committed his own future to the club by signing a four-and-half year deal in January."

An important win away for The George

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
Great Barr 181 The George 216

THE George picked up an important away win at Great Barr to maintain second place and keep the pressure on the league leaders.

The side got off to a good start in the first four with Mark Street (21-11), Phil Clinton (21-15) and Stewart Meddings (21-16) all winning to build up a 13-shot advantage.

Two 21-8 wins in the middle four by Alan Belcher and Elliot McGuinness increased the lead to 20 shots.

The match was put out of Great Barr's reach with wins by Shane Day (21-6) and Eric Winstone (21-12) in the back four completing a 35 shot victory.

South Staffs Division 1: The George 186 (Neil Hopwood 21-9) Chads Moor 225.

Darts bodies call truce for contest

DARTS rivals the PDC and BDO have called a truce to make November's Grand Slam in Wolverhampton a proper cross-organisation tournament.

The annual event returns to the Civic Hall for a ninth time from November 7-15 with the two companies working together, writes *Craig Birch*.

Criteria has always included the BDO with their world champion, runner-up, World Masters and World Trophy winner invited automatically.

But, this time, the BDO will even stage two qualifiers, one in Hull on Tuesday October 8 and another in Europe at a venue to be decided on Sunday October 18, for the PDC.

The finalists in each tournament will each get a pass for the Grand Slam so, in turn, each group from A to H will have a BDO presence.

Three-time BDO world title winner and 2015 runner-up Martin Adams, a staunch BDO loyalist, has never accepted the PDC's offer to take part.

Should that be the case again this year, his place will go the BDO's UK qualifier. Lakeside champion Scott Mitchell, Masters boss Martin Phillips and Trophy winner Geert De Vos are expected to participate.

This morning's announcement could represent a landmark day in the sport between the two factions, who have been at loggerheads ever since 'the split' in 1992. The top players, at that time, broke away to form the World Darts Council, now the PDC, and have operated as such ever since. The Grand Slam is the only tournament where BDO players are actively invited.

This year's event will also be ranking for the 24 PDC players taking part, for the first time, with prize money won to count on their main Order of Merit.

Darters from within the PDC system will be able to qualify automatically by winning, or reaching the final of, major tournaments up to then.

Reigning and six-time Grand Slam champion Phil Taylor defends his title, while World Youth title winner Keegan Brown is also present by matter of right.

Rugby club puts new team in place

WEDNESBURY Rugby Club have brought together a new coaching and management team.

The team will be made up of Gary Summers, head coach, Nick Biddlecombe, development coach, Paul Hyde, youth team coach and William Moore assistant youth coach.

Neil Haines becomes first team manager, Andy Dacey second team manager and new first team captain Matt Dale completes the line up.

Summers joined Wednesbury as a 17 year old in 1988 he has coached and managed Staffs School of Rugby, and coached North Mids U-18s.

Biddlecombe played for Dudley Kingswindford and joined Wednesbury for one season before moving to coach Warley RUFC.

Haines' rugby career spanned 28 years at Wednesbury and Old Halesonians, before retiring he now returns to the club.

Dacey started playing rugby at 14 in Falkirk moving to Grangemouth, Old Aylestonians then to Wednesbury retiring as a player at the end of last season.

Family

Wednesbury Rugby club was founded in 1921 and has the ethos of a family club with its heart in the Black Country.

In the new season the club will be playing in Midlands 3 West North league and will be looking for promotion.

The club is always looking for new players of all ages and experience.

It runs a first and second XV weekly and a vets side on a monthly basis as well as junior sides, and the club is looking to increase this to at least a third team.

The club's coaches are all RFU approved, and the site has two playing pitches with floodlights on the training pitch and an all weather pitch.

First team manager Haines said he was looking to encourage more players to join the club he also wants people to join as volunteers and social members.

He particularly wants people to help the junior sides. Training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7-9pm with matches on a Saturday. Juniors train Tuesdays 5-7pm with matches on Sundays. Contact the club on 07950505171 for more details.

Swimmers haul in the medals



Back from left, James Cuthbert, Amber Harrison, Lily Merrell, Jacob Darby, Mark Laing and front from left Jack Simpson, Lauren Hill, Amber Robbins, Emma Bird

HALESOWEN swimmers competed with the best in the region at the Midland Championships over three weekends recently brought back with them a haul of medals.

The club members were able to use 50m pools in Corby and Coventry and produced some impressive personal performances.

There were 13 swimmers from the club who competed in 41 events with nine of the club members going on to compete in 23 of the finals which were staged.

The swimmers earned an impressive five gold, one silver and four bronze medals during the competition.

Chloe Finch gained a gold medal in the 400m and 200m freestyle, and she added a bronze to her collection in the 100m Freestyle.

Mark Laing also got a gold medal in the age group 50m butterfly and then went on to grab silver in the 50m freestyle.

Josh Bradley also grabbed a gold in the open 50m butterfly and made his way into three other finals.

Lily Merrell pulled out some superb swims, securing age group gold in the 50m breaststroke and then adding a bronze in the 100m breast stroke.

Other age group bronze medallists from the club were Amber Harrison in the 50m backstroke and James Cuthbert in the 50m butterfly.

Cuthbert also made four additional finals.

Other finalists were Katherine Morrice who competed in the 50m and 100m freestyle and Jack Simpson who in the 50m and 100m freestyle and 50m backstroke.

Jacob Darby, Max Rollason, Lauren Hill, Emma Bird and Amber Robbins also competed.

Overall Halesowen swimmers enjoyed very successful Midland Championships.

Gifted and powerful Deslandes is signed up

STRONG, powerful, quick and technically gifted – that's the Wolves verdict on French teenage signing Sylvain Deslandes.

The 18-year-old defender has been snapped up as one for the future after joining from French top-flight side Caen. Deslandes can play at left-back or in central defence and has signed a two-year contract with an option for another season.

He will link up with his new team-mates on July 1 when his Caen contract expires. A French youth international, Deslandes will initially be with the under-21 squad for next season.

He has hailed the move as a 'dream come true' and spoke of his amazement at the facilities on offer at Molineux and Compton Park.

"I am very happy," he said. "It's a dream for me to come to England and I'm delighted with the confidence the club have shown in me."

"I've never seen facilities like the ones here at Wolves, they are top of the range."

Deslandes is Wolves' second signing of the summer after Portsmouth midfielder Jed Wallace.

And there are likely to be more to come with Kenny Jackett keen to add first team players before the transfer window shuts.

Wolves have been scouting Deslandes for a while and believe he has the right characteristics to succeed.

Head of football development and recruitment Kevin Thelwell said: "He's a player we've seen a lot of playing for Caen and the French national teams. He's got pace, he's powerful, he's strong, he's got good technique."

Hennessy is happy with Palace spot

FORMER Wolves goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey says he knows about interest from Albion – but insists he remains happy at Crystal Palace.

Baggies boss Tony Pulis is keen to be reunited with the Wales international, who he took to Selhurst Park in January 2014.

But the 28-year-old is insisting publicly that he wants to stay with the Eagles and battle with Julian Speroni for the No.1 jersey despite a frustrating time last season.

"I've had people telling me about interest from West Brom," said Hennessey.

"I've got two years left at Palace so I'm happy. I played the last couple of games so hopefully I can start next season."

"My season didn't start very well. I'd have liked to have been playing, but I've kept myself right."



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Ricketts is released by Wolves

CLUB captain Sam Ricketts has been released by Wolves after two years at Molineux.

Ricketts was a near ever-present and lifted the trophy as Wolves won the League One title in 2013/14.

But last season he found first team opportunities scarce, making just four league appearances and ending the season on loan at League One side Swindon Town.

Before going on loan he had been helping out with coaching duties.

Ricketts will not be retained in a coaching capacity after Wolves didn't offer him a new contract – but the 52-times capped Welsh international didn't rule out returning to Molineux as a coach in the future.

He said: "It was an honour for me to come in and be captain of Wolves and I have had a really enjoyable two years. To captain the side to a record-breaking title success is one of the highlights of my career."

"It would have been nice to stay here and carry on at Wolves, but that is how things can happen in football and I will move on with happy memories of my time at Molineux."

"And who knows? Maybe one day in the future I might be able to come back in a coaching capacity."

"I still feel I have plenty left to offer and will hopefully be able to take on something that will provide a good opportunity either on the playing or coaching side."

Ricketts found himself behind Dominic Iorfa and Matt Doherty in the pecking order last year.

Boss Kenny Jackett paid tribute to his captain and said: "Sam found his first team opportunities limited last season, but maintained a highly professional attitude."

Saido learning from mistakes, says Southgate

ENGLAND Under-21s boss Gareth Southgate has paid tribute to Saido Berahino's growing maturity.

Southgate has hailed the Baggies' striker for learning from mistakes as the pair gear up for the Young Lions' 2015 tournament in the Czech Republic.

England complete their preparations with a friendly at Barnsley tonight against Belarus with Berahino hoping to recapture the form that saw him hit 10 goals in qualifying.

And ahead of England opening their campaign with a game against Portugal, Southgate has praised Berahino's off-field improvements.

The 21-year-old's early career has been dogged by controversy including newspaper stories about inhaling a 'legal high', a dressing-room bust-up with team-mate James Morrison and a road ban for drink-driving.

But Southgate said: "We are lucky. It's a bit like having grandkids as you can give them back at the end of 10 days so we get less of those issues that club managers have to deal with. But he has been a pleasure to work with."

Brummies are the new champions

BIRMINGHAM are the new National League Fours Champions after a tense and dramatic meeting at Coventry.

The Surestop Brummies put in a spirited, determined showing to bring home the first available silverware of the 2015 season.

After qualifying for the Grand Final after winning Group A, the Brummies found themselves tied on points with hosts Coventry at the end of the main eight races.

A two-man match-race would determine the winners of this year's Fours tournament and it was Brummies No.1 Adam Ellis who got the better of the previously unbeaten Dan Greenwood to

Speedway

claim the first of hopefully many more trophies in the latest era of Birmingham Speedway.

Delighted team manager Graham Drury said: "This is absolutely remarkable and when you consider where this club found themselves just 12 months ago, it makes it an even more fantastic achievement."

"I'm so happy for our riders, their individual teams, Tony Mole, our supporters – this really does mean so, so much to everyone involved."

"Our supporters were outstanding. This is a

great way to continue our recent momentum."

Group A: Birmingham 18: Adam Ellis 6, Tom Perry 5, Zach Wajtknecht 4, Sam Chapman 3, Coventry 14: Dan Greenwood 6, Darryl Ritchings 5, Luke Crang 2, Rob Shuttleworth 1, Eastbourne 6: Bradley Wilson-Dean 4, Marc Owen 3, David Mason 1, Richard Andrews 0. King's Lynn 7: Ryan Kinsley 3, Josh Bailey 2, Tom Stokes 2, James Cockle 0.

Group B: Rye House 16: Kyle Hughes 6, Luke Priest 5, Luke Chessell 3, Sam Woods 2, Kent 16: Danny Ayres 5, Ben Morley 5, Aaron Basey 3, James Shanes 3, Cradley 9: Ellis Perks 3, Luke Harris 3, Matt Williamson 2, Arron Mogridge 1, Mildenhall 7: Dan Halsey 4, Connor Coles 2, Jack Kingston 1, Connor Mountain 0.

Final: Birmingham 15: Adam Ellis 5, Tom Perry 4, Zach Wajtknecht 4, Sam Chapman 2, Coventry 15: Dan Greenwood 6, Darryl Ritchings 4, Luke Crang 3, Rob Shuttleworth 2, Kent 13: Ben Morley 6, Danny Ayres 3, Aaron Basey 2, James Shanes 2, Rye House 4: Kyle Hughes 2, Luke Chessell 1, Luke Priest 1, Sam Woods 0. Run-off: Ellis beat Greenwood

Sherwood closes in on his first deal

TIM SHERWOOD was closing in on his first signing as Villa boss with Michal Richards set to reject Albion, Sunderland and a host of other clubs to join the FA Cup finalists.

The former Manchester City right-back, who spent last season on loan with Serie A club Fiorentina, is a free agent after leaving the Etihad Stadium.

Richards, 26, is a 13-time England international and won two league titles, the FA Cup and the League Cup with City, but last featured for Manuel Pellegrini's side in a home defeat to Wigan in March 2014.

Meanwhile, Villa captain Fabian Delph has urged Christian Benteke to follow his lead – but told Jack Grealish to let his heart decide his international future.

Delph insists he will not try and twist the arm of his 19-year-old claret and blue team-mate when it comes to choosing his international future.

Grealish, who starred in Villa's late season revival, is yet to decide whether to commit his international future to England or the Republic of Ireland.

The Birmingham-born midfielder has appeared for Ireland at youth level but turned down the chance to join up with Martin O'Neill's most recent squad.

And Delph, currently away with the Three Lions squad ahead of Sunday's Euro 2016 qualifier with Slovenia, says it is a decision Grealish must make for himself.

"I'll leave that to him," said Delph. "He's represented Ireland in the younger age groups but it's his decision. I won't be one to put pressure on him."

The Villa skipper is hopeful Benteke will follow his example and sign a new deal at Villa Park.

Delph put pen to paper on a new four-and-a-half year contract in January.

Tivdale bag new principal sponsor

TIVIDALE have unveiled Buildbase as their new principal sponsor ahead of the 2015/16 Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Division One South season.

The two-year deal will prove to be the most lucrative in Dale's 61-year history.

Buildbase's logo will feature on all first-team home and away shirts until the conclusion of the 2016/2017 campaign.

As part of the agreement, the builders merchants' branding will also feature on one of Tivdale Football Academy's teams, and extensive signage will also be seen around The Beeches until the summer of 2017.

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HALES FACING A TOUGH TEST

HALESOWEN face the daunting prospect of a trip to league leaders Bridgnorth this Saturday.

Skipper Faisal Shahid says his side will need a drastic improvement in form.

He also admits the washout against Wombourne last weekend was a blow as the team were confident of beating the South Staffordshire outfit.

And any hopes of a late promotion push could depend on their display this weekend against the unbeaten side.

Said Shahid: "The rain put paid to almost every fixture in the region last Saturday and of those that did manage play in our division both ended in draws."

"So the league positions are pretty much as they were before the weekend, but we were disappointed to fall victim as we'd targeted the Wombourne match for a positive result, especially on our home track where our form has been good."

"Now we face the league leaders Bridgnorth away from home who are currently unbeaten and we must improve our own form on the road."

Capable

"We couldn't face a harder task but, that said, I have faith in this team and know what we are capable of."

"We have identified the areas in which we have come up short in recent weeks and I'm confident we will be a match for Bridgnorth."

"We recognised them at the start of the season as promotion candidates and they have lived up to that. It's up to us now to prove we were worthy of the same title."

Second XI captain Adam Hawker saw his sides match at Stratford also fall victim to the weather and rued the opportunity to improve their position at the top end of the table.

He said: "The rain put paid to our match early and we didn't even have to make the effort to travel to Stratford."

"It's a pity as I was confident we could have got a result there but two months into the season this is the first time we've fallen victim to the weather. I don't think anyone would have predicted that."

Ton of cash for Baggies retro kit



Chris Brunt, James Morrison, Craig Gardner and Darren Fletcher pose in the new Albion away kit

ALBION fans will have to dig deep for the club's new away kit, with a full strip adding up to more than £100 in some cases.

The Baggies unveiled next season's change kit earlier this week amid ongoing talks about a new main sponsor.

Parents will be facing a bill of more than £90 for a full child's kit with names, numbers and Premier League badges while a full adult kit will cost more than £100 with the added extras.

The new red and black Adidas kit will be available in Albion club shops from this week and fans who buy early will be able to have the new sponsor's logo added later once the club conclude a deal.

Adult shirts have risen in price from £44.99 last season to £49.99 while junior shirts (£39.99), adult shorts (£24.99) and junior shorts (£21.99) have remained the same price along with socks (£9.99-£11.99).

A name and number on shirts costs £14.95 and Premier League badges on each sleeve cost £6 per shirt.

The shirt features a return of the italic WBA logo that was last seen in the 1980s and was worn for several seasons by legends from the club including Cyrille Regis, Tony Brown, Derek Statham, John Wile and Laurie Cunningham.

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